THE
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AND
SUPREME COURT & CONSULAR GAZETTE.

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Shanghai mail advices of the 1st of Aug. were received in London on the 4th of Sept.

Advertisement.

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The North-China Herald.
IMPARTIAL NOT NEUTRAL.
SHANGHAI, MONDAY, SEPT. 19, 1898.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL SHENG EXPLAINS.

WE published not long since a translation of a rather peremptory Imperial edict asking H. E. Shêng, Director-General of Railways, to explain his dilatoriness in the matter of the Lu-Han railway. The latest issue of the *Peking and Tientsin Times* contains a translation of H. E. Shêng's explanation and exculpation, addressed to the Throne.

He begins with recording the selection of himself, Chang Chih-tung, Viceroy of Hukuang, and Wang Wên-shao, Viceroy of Chihli, to be in charge of the main line, on which he, Shêng, came at once to Shanghai and established a Head Administration Office here, and informed the Emperor of the commencement of the line from Lukouchiao (Peking) to Paotingfu. This was, of course, commenced promptly, because it was entrusted to Mr. Kinder. Work was then started at Hankow, arrangements being made for the surveying of the route and the purchase of land northwards, and permission was asked to borrow funds from the Government, H.E. Shêng promising that the lines from Lukouchiao to Paotingfu, and from Woosung to Shanghai should be opened during 1897.

Ever since he took over charge of the line a year and a-half ago, "not a day has passed but the memorialist has given orders to his Chinese and Foreign officials to survey the route in different directions and to purchase ground according to plans, doing his best to procure proper materials, and urging on the workmen, besides establishing special railway schools at both Tientsin and Hankow, as well as preparing all workshops, and he has not in the slightest delayed matters." After detailing the work that has been done from the north toward Paoting, and from the south towards Shekou, H.E. Shêng tells of his financial difficulties. Chinese merchants will not take shares in the railway until it is finished and they can see their way to a profit, "an experience of which the memorialist has already had in his management of the steamers and telegraphs."—He would have been nearer the truth if he had said that Chinese merchants will not take shares in an enterprise managed by their own officials, because they know them too well.—Out of the Government Shêng succeeded in getting Tls. 7,000,000, and then there was nothing left but to negotiate a foreign loan, and here Shêng puts in one of those flings at foreigners which Chinese officials seem to think must be acceptable to the Throne, even when the hated foreigner is being asked to do a favour. He says: "The memorialist thus came to the opinion that to raise the proper funds for the construction of the railway it would be necessary to make a foreign loan, when, however, the power to delay or facilitate, expedite or hinder, would be in the hands of those furnishing the money, besides which whenever foreign merchants negotiate loans with China, they hold out some tempting bait whilst keeping their unfair demands in the background, leading us astray with advantageous promises as they have always hitherto done."—Of course, this is an utterly unfounded accusation, but it is an indication of H.E. Shêng's character.—He continues: "One of the primary objects kept in view by Wang Wên-shao, Chang Chih-tung, and the memorialist when discussing the negotiations of a foreign loan was the avoidance of these faults, China not seeking for any illicit gain, but only striving for the public good; whereas if foreignershave no *quid pro quo* to look for in the future they are the more unwilling to meet us at the time."—This is such a beautiful vision of the innocence of the Chinese contrasted with the rapacity of foreigners that we have quoted the description in full, but we must now condense.

The Americans were tried first but they wanted "too many powers," which being translated means they they were indelicate enough to require some security for their money. Then British merchants made similar demands, "which would have caused some years of harm," and H. E. Shêng's "pen was worn and his lips were parched" with talking about how to get the money he wanted first, and then how to repay it in the future. So he hurried up to Wuchang to see H. E. Chang, and there the Belgian Consul introduced him to some Belgian merchants who agreed to all the Chinese demands without further discussion. H. E. Chang and H. E. Shêng "came to the conclusion that Belgium was but an iron and steel manufactory, and acknowledged to be but a small country without any wish for aggrandisement, and that borrowing money from them would be most advantageous and attended with but little risk. So we left the British and Americans alone and took up the Belgians and Your Majesty has been thoroughly informed of the two agreements then made." Mr. Shêng omits apparently to disclose to his Majesty the fact that behind the "iron and steel manufactory" stand France and the Russo-Chinese Bank.

But greatly to Shêng's disgust, in the first moon of this year the Belgians themselves had the indelicacy to ask for security, "and after several months' delay during which frequent modifications and alterations were made, the agreement fell through and the matter ended." In fact for months, in the speed with which it was alternately on and off and the vicissitudes it experienced, this Belgian loan was like nothing in the world so much as Woodpecker Tapping's engagement in *The Wedding March.* When, however, "the stage where no further concessions could be obtained was reached," the agreement was satisfactorily concluded and signed by both parties on the 7th day of the 5th moon, the 25th of June 1898. With the exception of the bridge work at the Yellow River and any unexpected causes of delay, and provided that funds are not curtailed, the railway between Peking and Hankow is to be opened for traffic within three years. Of course, the exceptions mentioned will allow this opening to be put off indefinitely.

We gather that the American Syndicate would have begun the Hankow-Canton line already, but for the breaking-out of the war with Spain, but a representative of the Syndicate is on his way out to China, and when everything is settled work will be begun at both ends, "and as the American railway-construction is far in advance of that of all other countries, the memorialist is of opinion that there will be no delay to be anticipated." The English are looking after the Shanghai-Nanking line. H.E. Sheng then dilates on the advantage of allowing each of the countries that has undertaken a line to appoint an Engineer-in-Chief who shall have the entire management of his line under the Head Railway Office, and he concludes in the usual strain of official humility:—

"The memorialist being but an ignorant and incompetent person is afraid of being maligned, and although he has exerted himself to the utmost he fears he is unable to overcome these great difficulties and thinks that it will be necessary to further select capable men so that each line may be under the special control of one man who will conduct affairs in conjunction with the engineers from the respective countries concerned, in accordance with the agreement, but to be guided entirely by the Head Administration. The Viceroys and Governors of the various provinces must be public-spirited, straightforward, and in sympathy with the Government, and all be of one mind in rendering each other mutual assistance, when matters will not be obstructed and the work will be completed at the proper date, which will relieve Your Imperial mind of a continuous strain, and free the memorialist from the blame attached to delay which will be most fortunate for this important business as well as for him.

"The foregoing is a memorial giving a careful statement of all the details of the arrangements made for the construction of the railways from North to South for which Your Imperial notice is craved and Your further commands solicited."

Summary of News.

An American mail, ex *Tacoma*, arrived here by the *Saikio Maru* on the 14th inst.

The French mail of the 13th of August arrived here on the 14th inst. by the M.M. steamer *Natal*.

A mail leaves to-morrow afternoon for Europe by the M.M. steamer *Indus*.

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LATEST INTELLIGENCE.

SUPPLIED THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY EXCLUSIVELY TO THE "NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

London, 12th September.

THE ASSASSINATION OF THE EMPRESS OF AUSTRIA.

The Empress of Austria was stabbed in the bosom with a slender triangular file while proceeding from her Hotel to the Steamboat Pier. At first she was not aware that she was wounded, and imagined simply that an attempt had been made to steal her watch. The Empress died in about three hours.

There is intense excitement in Vienna, and it is believed that the crime is the outcome of an anarchist conspiracy.

PEACE CONFIRMED.

The Spanish Senate has adopted the Peace Protocol.

A SOMEWHAT SUDDEN RECALL.

The British troops in Khartoum are returning northward as fast as the transports permit.

London, 13th September.

A CLOUD COMING UP FROM AFRICA.

News has reached Omdurman that a force of white men believed to be French occupies Fashoda, and Sir H. H. Kitchener is going there. The newspapers comment seriously on this news, and all of them recall the declaration by Sir Edward Grey in the House of Commons in 1895, that French interference on the Upper Nile would be regarded as an unfriendly act.

The French Press is jubilant at the presence of Frenchmen in Fashoda.

THE SUPERFLUOUS TURK.

The Admirals have requested the Powers to insist on the immediate expulsion of fifteen thousand Bashi Bazouks and the recall of the Turkish troops from Crete.

London, 14th September.

THE DREYFUS CASE AGAIN.

Colonel Paty du Clam has been compulsorily retired and dismissed from the Staff owing to his machinations with Major Esterhazy in connection with the Dreyfus case.

General Zurlinden, the French Minister for War, having examined the Dreyfus papers, is convinced that Captain Dreyfus was guilty, and will resign if the Cabinet insists on a revision of the case.

London, 15th September.

U. S. REINFORCEMENTS FOR MANILA.

Owing to the urgent request of Admiral Dewey, the battleships *Iowa* and *Oregon*, accompanied by transports, will sail shortly for the Philippines.

THE TROUBLE IN CRETE.

It is confirmed that six hundred Christians have been massacred in Candia.

Rear-Admiral Noel, R.N. has presented an ultimatum to the Governor of Crete to the effect that he must disarm the Mussulmans within forty-eight hours, deliver up the ringleaders of the massacre, and surrender the forts commanding the British encampment.

THE FEELING IN SPAIN.

The Spanish Cortes have adopted the Peace Protocol after frantic scenes of vituperation against the Government, the Generals, and Admiral Cervera.

London, 16th September.

THE SULTAN IS RECALCITRANT.

A circular from the Porte to the Powers refuses to withdraw the troops from Crete and asks for the appointment of a Governor.

THE ADMIRALS ARE FIRM.

The Admirals at Candia have refused the Governor's request to extend the time of the ultimatum.

THE FERMENT IN SPAIN.

The Cortes have suspended their sittings in order to enable the Government to cope with the political and military agitations.

GREAT TYPHOON IN THE WEST INDIES.

In a hurricane which took place over the Leeward and Windward islands on Saturday, Kingstown, the capital of the island of St. Vincent, was totally destroyed. Three hundred persons were killed and two thousand have been rendered homeless.

Two hundred people were killed in Barbadoes and the estates are ruined.

London, 17th September.

THE OUTBREAK IN CANDIA: THE RINGLEADERS CAPTURED.

The ringleaders in the massacre of Christians at Candia have been conveyed on board a British man-of-war and will be tried, at the Sultan's request, by an international commission.

THE OCCUPATION OF FASHODA, AND THE VISIT OF THE SIRDAR AND HIS ESCORT.

The *Daily Telegraph* states that the garrison at Fashoda consists of eight Europeans and one hundred Senegalese black levies, and is undoubtedly French.

Sir H. H. Kitchener started for Fashoda on Friday and took three gunboats, one hundred men of the Cameron Highlanders, two batteries, and fifteen hundred Egyptians.

SPECIAL TELEGRAMS TO THE "NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS)

Chungking, 16th September.

THE RIOT IN SZECHUAN.

There has been a riot at Hochou, sixty miles north of Chungking, caused by a proclamation by the rebel chief, Yü Man-tze. The American mission was looted and the Catholic mission burnt. No one was injured.

Numerous rumours are afloat in Chungking.

Hongkong, 12th September.

THE INTERPORT CRICKET MATCH.

The following is the Hongkong team which will leave this on the 21st at daylight per O. & O. S. S. *Doric*:—

A. S. Anton, Esq.,
H. Arthur, Esq.,
Lieut. Campbell, H.K.R.,
Lieut. P. G. Davies, R.A.,
Capt. Dyson, A.P.D.,
Capt. Langhorne, R.A.,
Lieut. Lethbridge, K.O.R.,
Dr. Lowson,
Lieut. Moberly, H.K.R.,
Rev. G. R. Vallings,
A. G. Ward, Esq.,

Hongkong, 18th September.

IMPERIALIST SUCCESS IN KUANGSI.

Li Lo-ping, a leader of the rebels in Kuangsi, with two of his aides-de-camp and three hundred of the rebels, has been captured and executed.

◆

MORE RIOTING IN SZECHUAN.

The following telegram, received on Thursday night from the U. S. Consul at Chungking, and dated 15th inst., has been kindly placed at our disposal by Mr. E. T. Williams, the U.S. Vice-Consul-General:—

There has been rioting at Hochou, distant about fifty miles from this. The American and French mission places were attacked and the latter burnt. (The rebel chief) Yü Man-tze is the originator of the riot.

◆

THE Director of Sicawei Observatory reports: Monday, 12th September, 10 a.m.—*State of the atmosphere on the 11th.*—The pressure is relatively high on the whole coast of China and at Japan. Fine weather at Shanghai. The observations of the interior are still totally wanting.—*State on the morning of the 12th.*—Fine, calm, and warm weather. The pressure keeps high.—*Probabilities, 5 p.m.*—The weather will remain unsettled and subject to thunderstorms. Very variable breezes and local calms along the whole coast, on account of the relatively high pressures of the S.—Tuesday, 13th September, 10 a.m.—*State of the atmosphere on the 12th.*—High pressures between Lake Baikal and Vladivostock. The pressure gives way everywhere at Japan and along the coast of China (no telegrams from the interior except from Chinkiang). A thunderstorm passes over Shanghai during the afternoon. Light unsteady winds along the coast. *State on the morning of the 13th.*—The barometer is brought by its slow and continuous fall below the average. *Probabilities, 5 p.m.*—Unsettled weather, liable to intermittent rain. Moderate to fresh breezes from N. to N.W. in the N.; variable winds over the S. coast. The barometer is falling over the Loochoo Islands.—Wednesday, 14th September, 10 a.m.—*State of the atmosphere on the 13th.*—The barometer is falling at the Loochoo Islands, and below Japan, but without giving any signs of a typhoon. Overcast and cooler weather with intermittent rains at Shanghai. Pretty strong N.W. breezes along the coast to the N. of the 30th parallel.—*State on the morning of the 14th.*—The pressure stands below the average, but is rising afresh. Cool weather with N.W. breezes. *Probabilities, 5.30 p.m.*—The weather is likely to set fine again. Moderate breezes from the W. quadrant over the N. coast; light and variable winds in the S. The Manila Observatory reports a new typhoon to the E. of Luzon. As the barometer is falling rapidly at Manila, the Captains leaving for the S. must be on their guard.—Thursday, 15th September, 10 a.m.—*State of the atmosphere on the 14th.*—Depression over Siberia to the W. of Lake Baikal. High pressures over Eastern Siberia and Saghalien Island. There is a depression over the Pacific to the E. of the Philippines which seems to approach the E. coast of Luzon. Fine weather with N.W. breezes at Shanghai.—*State on the morning of the 15th.*—Fine, cloudy, and calm weather at Shanghai. Normal pressure with rising glass. *Probabilities, 5 p.m.*—The typhoon which has arrived to the S.E. of the Loochoo Islands is likely now to continue its way towards the N.N.W. Fine weather at Shanghai. Monsoon from N.W. to N.E. in the N., spreading itself gradually to the S. coast.—Friday, 16th September, 10 a.m. *State of the atmosphere on the 15th.*—The Siberian depression is approaching Irkutsk. Its passage has been followed at Tomsk by the first snowfall reported this season. The typhoon to the S.E. of the Loochoos had a tendency towards the evening to recurve N. Fine weather at Shanghai. *State on the morning of the 16th.*—The barometer is rising and approaches the normal mean. Fair and cool weather.—*Probabilities, 5.30 p.m.*—The typhoon seems to move away towards the N.E. over the Pacific, keeping itself rather far away from Japan. Fine weather at Shanghai. Moderate monsoon from N.E. in the S., and from N.E. to N.W. over the N. coast.—Saturday, 17th September, 10 a.m.—*State of the atmosphere on the 16th.*—The depression in the Pacific moves away to the E. of the Loochoos without approaching Japan. Fine weather at Shanghai. Moderate autumnal monsoon along the entire coast—*State on the morning of the 17th.*—The weather becomes overcast and the barometer, still below the average is falling slowly.—Sunday, 18th September, 10 a.m.—*State of the atmosphere on the 17th.*—A belt of high pressures stretches on both sides of the 50th parallel. The barometer keeps low over the Pacific to the S.E. of the Loochoos. A shower in Shanghai in the morning; then fine weather. *State on the morning of the 18th.*—Fine weather. Pressure below the mean. Barometer falling. *Probabilities 5.30 p.m.*—The high pressures off Siberia will tend to bring back the N.W. to N.E. monsoon over the north coast and gradually in the south. Fine weather at Shanghai.

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READINGS FOR THE WEEK.

Thermometers in the open air in a shaded (situation in the English Settlement.)

1898.

		Fahr. Thermometer. Min.	Fahr. Thermometer. Max.	Rainfall in inches.
Sept.	12	76°.0	87°.3	1.07
,,	13	72°.0	77°.3	0.35
,,	14	68°.9	76°.1	0.01
,,	15	70°.0	80°.7	......
,,	16	68°.1	81°.0	......
,,	17	71°.6	80°.8	......
,,	18	71°.6	85°.2	......

1897.

		Fahr. Thermometer. Min.	Max.	Rainfall in inches.
Sept.	12	75°.4	83°.0	0.10
,,	13	66°.0	83°.0	0.27
,,	14	63°.5	71°.8	0.13
,,	15	62°.5	77°.5	......
,,	16	65°.0	73°.5	......
,,	17	65°.9	77°.2	......
,,	18	69°.4	75°.9	0.10

Referring to Reuter's telegrams published this week, we do not see at the moment from what quarter comes the menace for which Admiral Dewey asks for two more battleships. With the *Monterey* and *Monadnock* he has a very strong squadron under his orders now.—Rear-Admiral Gerald Henry Uctred Noel is Rear-Admiral in the Mediterranean Fleet, Sir John Ommanney Hopkins, K.C.B., being Commander-in-Chief on the station.

We are glad to learn from the *Echo de Chine* that the real object of France, Russia, and Germany is "to civilise this barbarous China, to nurse this dying empire, and infuse new blood into it."

The flags at the Custom House and at all the Consulates and on the men-of-war and mail steamers in harbour were half-masted on Thursday on account of the receipt of the official news of the assassination of the Empress of Austria.

We regret to have to announce the death of the Rev. Albert Charousset, assistant to the Rev. Father Robert, of the Missions Etrangères, which took place at the General Hospital on Thursday morning. Father Charousset had only been in Shanghai a few months, and was a comparatively young man.

It will be seen with general satisfaction that the U.S. Assessor, the Rev. E. T. Williams, has concurred in the judgment of the Mixed Court magistrate with reference to the recent Mercantile Collection Agency case. We understand that the arrangement that has been come to is that the Mixed Court will take cognisance of transferred claims, where the claim has been transferred *bonâ fide* in settlement of a preceding liability; but that it will take no cognisance of claims which have been brought simply to make a profit on them. This is a decidedly reasonable arrangement.

At a meeting held on the Cricket Ground after the match on Saturday evening, it was decided that the team to represent Shanghai in the forthcoming interport contest should be chosen from the following players:—E. O. Cumming, S. G. Dew, R. C. Farbridge, W. H. Jackson, A. E. Lanning, G. F. Lanning, J. Mann, E. K. Morriss, W. H. Moule, A. E. Stewart, W. J. Tyack, H. Veitch, and T. Wallace.

We are asked to state that the Directors of the China Merchants' S.N. Co. offer their thanks to the Shanghai Volunteer Fire Brigades, the French Municipal Police, the Navy, and all those who ably assisted in the extinguishing of the Fire at the Kinleeyuen Wharves on Saturday night.

A fire broke out at about 11.40 p.m. on Friday in an opium shop at No. 161, Shanse Road which rapidly spread to the adjoining houses. Although the Fire Department soon appeared on the scene, the fire had made such progress that it was not until thirteen houses had been destroyed that it was got under control. The proprietor of the opium shop has been arrested but so far has given no information regarding the origin of the conflagration. The property was owned by Messrs. Lester, Schultz, and Dowdall and Hanson. Most of the property was insured but to what extent we have not been able to learn. The companies involved are the Hongkong, the North British, and the Imperial.

It will be remembered with regard to the large fire which occurred the other day outside the East Gate of the native city, that there was a suspicion that the Têh Mao pawnshop where the fire originated and on which there was an insurance of some Tls 12,000 had been set fire to by interested parties. It is now reported that the neighbours who suffered by the conflagration intend to appeal to the city magistrate in order to find out the real cause of the fire.

Our correspondent writes under date the 10th instant:—Continuing the maximum readings of the thermometer in your correspondent's house at Kuling, the following is the list:—

24th	August	...70°	1st	Sept.	......69°
25th	,,	...71°	2nd	,,	......69°
26th	,,	...72°	3rd	,,	......71°
27th	,,	...72°	4th	,,	......72°
28th	,,	...68°	5th	,,	......70°
29th	,,	...70°	6th	,,	......69°
30th	,,	...68°	7th	,,	......71°
31st	,,	...70°	8th	,,	......73°

The minimum reading for the above period is 66°.

For the months of July and August respectively at Kuling:

The highest maximum was	...75°	78°
,, lowest ,, ,,	...68°	66°
,, ,, minimum ,,	...66°	64°
,, highest ,, ,,	...72°	74°
Average max. ,,	...72°.7	72°.03
,, min. ,,	...70°.3	73°.19

Readings taken at 8 a.m. and 2 p.m.

As there have been reports that one of the letters defending the recent mixed missionary marriage was written by foreign-trained Chinese in Kiukiang, the young Chinese lady doctors at that port wish to have it known that they are not the authors of the letter in question.

In another column will be found the report and accounts for the last session of the Young Men's Christian Association, which show how much may be done with willing hands at a small outlay.

The Autumn Regatta of the Shanghai Rowing Club is to take place on Friday and Saturday, the 21st and 22nd of October next.

A fire which occurred in the Chinese suburbs, outside the East-gate, on Saturday night, destroyed some dozen or fifteen houses, entailing heavy loss to the sufferers. The fire is alleged to have originated in a small pawnshop under suspicious conditions. A petition has been presented to the local mandarins by the sufferers and the former are investigating the case. The pawnshop is said to have been insured for Tls. 12,000 in a foreign Insurance Office.

At about 2 o'clock on Thursday morning Li Hongkew was startled out of its rest by the alarm given by the beating of gongs announcing that its precincts had been invaded by a gang of seventeen robbers, alleged to have been armed to the teeth—so it was said by the soldiers belonging to the military patrol there who turned out to give battle to the bandits. One of the bandits was captured, the others making themselves scarce when confronted by the valorous "Braves."

The Municipal Dog-pound, or Asylum as it is sometimes called, on Scott Road, evidently requires considerably more attention than apparently has been given to it, from what we gather from a gentleman who was an eyewitness, the other day, of the state of affairs there. It appears that the gentleman in question lost his dog recently and went down to the Pound to see if it had been "run-in" by the dog-catcher. He found in one of the rooms nearly a couple of dozen canines of all sizes, colour and condition, from the clean, well-cared for, valuable, thorough-bred, down to the mangy, scraggy, half-rabid mongrel, all squeezed and cooped up in a place where there appeared to be standing room for not even one-half of the number of canines then there. This indiscriminate and so Chinese-like way of doing such things is obviously a serious danger to dog-owners who may find their pets cooped up in this manner. For there is no guarantee that any one of them may not have been bitten by this conglomeration of canines—for dogs will fight—many of which are generally in a half-mad, mangy, and sadly diseased condition. Dogs recovered from such a place as this constitute a real danger to their owners.

The Rev. H. Newcomb, Seamen's Chaplain, suggests that there must be many possessors of Lantern slides in the community, and he thinks it would be mutually helpful if a loan exchange of views for exhibition could be arranged. Mr. Newcomb has between three and four hundred slides and would be very glad to hear from any one to whom his suggestion commends itself.

Shortly after midnight on Tuesday a Sikh watchman employed at the Old Dock fell into the dock, sustaining a fracture of the skull and other injuries. He was conveyed by the police to the hospital, where he died a few hours later.

An Imperial edict of of the 14th Instant cashiers and dismisses from service Hsing Lu, Provincial Judge of Yunnan, for illiteracy, and for permitting his subordinates to commit irregularities.

A Tientsin dispatch states that Marquis Ito was given a grand banquet on the 11th instant, by Viceroy Jung Lu, the place of entertainment being in the Peiyang Medical College.

It is reported from Peking that the Grand Secretary Hsü Yung-yi, who has the name of being the most conservative of all the Imperial Ministers, has recently presented a memorial to the Throne asking permission to retire from active service.

H.E. Wêng Tung-ho, the former Imperial Tutor and leading member in the Government at Peking, now relieved of all his offices and ordered back to his native place near Soochow, passed through Kiukiang in strict *incognito* a few days ago.

A dispatch from Peking states that the *yamêns* of the six recently abolished Courts are to be turned, for the great part, into colleges of Western learning, and that the *yamên* of the Supervisorate of Instruction will be the future headquarters of the Bureau of Mechanical Arts and Commerce.

The *Sinwênpao* publishes a special telegram from Peking to the effect that the Imperial consent has been given to the Viceroy Chang Chih-tung's scheme of sending, at once, fifty of his ablest and brightest young military officers to study their profession in Japan, and that the young officers will probably be sent to Tokio at an early date.

Sub-prefect Chêng, Magistrate of the Mixed Court, issued on the 14th instant a proclamation informing the people under his jurisdiction of the dismissal of one of his court scribes, for dishonest practices, and granting permission to all to send their complaints through the Local Post if any more attempts are made hereafter by his scribes or runners to extort money from litigants.

By the abolition of the post of Governor of Hupeh, H.E. Viceroy Chang Chih-tung will be placed in full control of the provincial exchequer and will now be able to push all his schemes of reform and innovation without being compelled to apply for funds to the Governor. This Governor, Tan Chi-hsün, as often as not used to refuse to loosen the provincial purse strings for what he considered "the madcap adventures" of his superior officer.

The local mandarins have received dispatches from Chêngtu, the provincial capital of Szechuan, reporting the existence of a rebellion in the districts of Tatsu and Tungliang in that province, alleged to be headed by the notorious outlaw Yü Mantze. Reports magnify the number of the rebels to something like 50,000, but at any rate a body of Imperial troops sent to suppress the rebellion has been badly defeated, leaving the door open for the invasion of Chungking if the rebels desired to attack that port.

The *Universal Gazette* publishes a report from Foochow that, in view of the recent Imperial decree commanding the appropriation of extra grants of money for enlarging the sphere of usefulness of the Foochow Naval Arsenal and Dockyard, the French Director of the above institution has recently presented a petition to the Viceroy Pien deprecating any "further purchases from abroad of armoured or fast cruisers, transports, or torpedo-boat destroyers, and guaranteeing his ability, with adequate funds, to turn out all these ships from the Foochow works so as to give a very strong navy to the Empire," etc.

The *Universal Gazette* states that a Committee of the gentry of Tungliang district, Szechuan, sent by Jên Taotai of Chungking lately to exhort the notorious Yü Man-tze to lay down his arms, were prevented by this rebel chief from returning to report the result of their mission to the Taotai, and are now held as hostages for his own safety in the future. The hostages are, however, extremely well-treated by their gaoler who grants them everything but liberty.

The Grand Secretary Sun Chia-nai has appointed a Committee of four Metropolitan officers to visit Japan and examine the schools and universities in that country, in order to get information how to manage the proposed Peking University and lower grade colleges. The following are the officers appointed:—The Censor Li Shêng-tu, the Hanlin Compiler Li Chia-chü, the Hanlin Bachelor and Imperial Clansman Shou Fu, and Yang Shih-hsi, second-class Secretary of the Board of Works. They are expected to arrive at this port shortly *en route* for Tokio.

A Tientsin dispatch of the 8th inst. reports that Marquis Ito was expected to arrive at Taku from Corea *viâ* Chefoo on the evening of the 9th inst. and that Wang Taotai, belonging to the Viceroy Jung Lu's suite, had been appointed to meet the Marquis at Taku and escort him to Tientsin, where apartments have been prepared for his reception in the Peiyang Naval Administration buildings. The Chinese officials have recently shown great anxiety to maintain closer relations with Japan than formerly, and pains appear to have been taken to give Marquis Ito a cordial and warm welcome to China.

The *Sinwênpao* states that the people living in the vicinity of the gold mines of the Amur region who are now opposing the construction of the Manchurian Railway by the Russians through their territory, as already noted in these columns, are some 2,000, odd, miners, inured to all sorts of hardship and rough fighting, and that they have been recently reinforced by nearly 5,000 disbanded soldiery, formerly belonging to Tartar-General E-ko-tang-à's Tartar army in the late war with Japan. The true reason of this rising appears to be a report amongst the miners that the Russians intend to take possession of the mines and work them for their own benefit.

Some 5,000 persons, consisting of clerks, scribes, supernumaries, runners, and petty officials, have been thrown out of employment by the recent abolition at Peking of the six minor Boards or Courts, and many of them are said to have spent considerable sums of money in buying their posts which thus became transferable to their descendants, a practice which has been current for some two thousand years in this country. As already stated in these columns, the chief officers and secretaries have been provided for by being turned over to the Board of Control of Railways and Mines, and Boards of Agriculture, Arts, and Commerce for employment; but it is the smaller fry who will suffer by the general disbandment.

His Majesty Kuang Hsü, who during the late war with Japan began studying English and French, has recently given up the latter language and now turns his sole attention to getting a mastery over English literature. His Majesty has a very quick ear and pronounces extremely well, and he devotes two hours' close study daily to his lessons. The Imperial Tutor is a gentleman who has been to the United States, and the determination of his Majesty to push his projects of reform has doubtless been greatly strengthened by this daily, intimate intercourse where official etiquette becomes considerably lessened.

Mr. Tan, the new prefect of Chinkiang, took over his seals of office at that port on the 9th instant, *vice* Chan, transferred to Soochow as senior prefect of Lower Kiangsu. Apropos of the latter official, who is well-known as an honest and clean-handed officer, he left Chinkiang for Soochow overland about a fortnight ago attended only by a body servant and dressed like a fortune teller, that is, in disguise, and has not turned up yet at Soochow to take over his seals of office. But it is conjectured that he is quietly finding out for himself the actual condition of the prefecture he is to rule, and the honest or otherwise conduct of the district magistrates, his subordinates, and the knowledge of this has put all of them in a tremble and on their best behaviour during the past ten days.

An Imperial edict of the 13th instant grants permission to Taotais and prefects to memorialise straight to the Throne on matters concerning the reformation of the government of the Empire, while sub-prefects and district magistrates may do so through their respective Viceroys and Governors who, however, are strictly forbidden, under his Majesty's severest displeasure, to open the memorials they are asked to transmit to Peking. Scholars without official status and the commonalty may also memorialise the Throne through their respective prefects or Taotais. Another edict of the same date grants a most important privilege to Manchus, allowing them henceforth to engage in trade and the various industries. Manchus hitherto could only be soldiers, it being a disgrace to enter into trade.

The *Universal Gazette* publishes the following telegram alleged to have been sent by the Viceroy Tan of Canton to Viceroy Chang of Wuchang:—"The spirit of rebellion in Kuangtung province appears to be daily increasing in intensity, and the provincial capital (Canton) is in a state of siege, in consequence. It is stated that the rebels now number over 100,000 men. Furthermore, in Kuangsi, where the rebels had been recently defeated and dispersed by the Imperial troops, the partially smothered embers appear to be again being fanned into flames, encouraged by the success of the malcontents in the sister province, and a union has been effected between the two which makes matters exceedingly serious. Unless help comes from outside provinces there seems little chance of crushing this rebellion as the troops available in the Two Kuang provinces are insufficient to deal with the question."

An Imperial edict of the 15th instant approves of the memorial of the Hanlin Bachelor Ting Wei-lu suggesting that a National Budget be issued annually, according to Western custom, and commands the Board of Revenue to make up monthly Statements of Accounts to be printed and published for the information of the whole empire. Criticisms can then be made and economy in various items of expenditure suggested which may be beneficial to the Empire. "As we are now earnestly prosecuting our schemes of reforms for the country," says the edict, "a National Budget, according to Western customs, is one of the most important matters to be attended to, and it is our earnest hope that good will come out of them all." Another edict of the same date gives Yuan Shih-kai the rank of a Vice-President of a Board and commands him to resign his present office of Provincial Judge of Chihli, in order that he may bend his whole attention to the work of drilling and organising the disciplined Army Corps under his command.

An Imperial edict of the 12th inst. commands the Board of War and Tsungli Yamên to report on a suggestion of three secretaries of Boards to abolish the Imperial courier post in favour of the present Post office under Sir Robert Hart. Another edict of the same date approves of the plan of the Hanlin Reader Jui Hsün (Manchu) to encourage the establishing of newspapers and magazines in the capital and throughout the Empire as the best means of educating the masses, and commands the high officials everywhere to exhort the gentry and wealthy classes to embark upon such enterprises with full knowledge of the Imperial approval. A third edict replying to a joint report of the Tsungli Yamên and the Board of War, concerning the manner of future examinations of military candidates for degrees, according to Western methods, declares that the joint report is not full enough and lacks many essential points of permanent reform. The report is therefore rejected with the command that the memorialists reconsider their report in conjunction with the Grand Council. It will be seen from this that his Majesty Kuang Hsü is not contented with a mere superficial attempt at reformation but that whatever he desires to establish is to be permanent.

By an Imperial Edict of the 10th instant the post of Chief Superintendent of Octroi in the capital (Chungwên-gate) is given to Prince Ching and that of Vice-Superintendent to Wên Lin, Junior Vice-President of the Board of Punishments. The above posts are exclusively given to Manchus belonging to the Imperial Clan or collateral branch—*gioro*—and yield some Tls. 100,000 per annum to the Chief Superintendent and about half that amount to his deputy. These sums come up to almost one-half of the sum total required by law to be handed to the Imperial Privy Purse or the Board of Revenue at the end of each year, and being considered the richest posts in the capital among the gifts of the Crown, they are naturally much sought after by members of the Imperial House. Hence an incumbent is allowed to hold the post for a year only. To render a member of the Imperial Clan eligible to the post of Chief Superintendent of Octroi at the Chungwên-gate, however, he must be at least a President of one of the Six Boards; that of Vice-Superintendent being given to Vice-Presidents of Boards. In the present instance Prince Ching succeeds Huai Tapu, cashiered President of the Board of Rites, and Wên Lin takes the place of Pu Ting, cashiered Vice-President of the same Board.

An Imperial edict of the 11th instant approves of the suggestions of Hsiao Wên-shao, a third-class Secretary of the Board of Punishments, to establish schools of instructions for planting and manufacturing tea, and for sericulture, according to the best combined Western and Chinese methods, in order to keep up competition with similar foreign manufactures. Viceroys and Governors of provinces where tea and silk are manufactured are therefore commanded to establish at once such schools of instruction and report to the Throne what they have done in the matter. Another edict of the same date sanctions the recommendation of the Grand Secretary Sun Chia-nai to add a medical department to the proposed Peking Imperial University where all that is best of Western and Chinese surgery, pharmacy, and medical practice may be taught to students. A third edict issued the same day commands all high provincial officials from the 3rd grade, or Provincial Judge, upwards, to observe the rule of asking permission to go up to Peking for an Imperial audience, after every third year of their appointment; a rule which of late has not been usually observed. The Emperor's intention in reviving this rule is to give him the opportunity of personally examining his high officials from the provinces in order to see whether they are fit for further retention, promotion, or otherwise.

A QUESTION having arisen as the practical usefulness of the Director-Generalship of the Grand Canal, which has the general superintendency of the tribute rice transport through the Canal and the likin *en route*, an Imperial edict of the 10th instant commands the Viceroy at Nanking and the Governor at Soochow to decide whether or not the above post ought to be retained in the future. Two other important edicts were also issued the same day, one authorising Hu Yü-fên, Governor of Peking, in his capacity of Director-General of Railways north of the Yellow River, to build a branch railway to the Western Hills, near Peking, the coal mines at which place supply the capital and vicinity with fuel. The new railway is projected owing to the heavy expenses increased yearly in engaging camels to transport such fuel. The other edict is an approval of the work done by Sung Yü-jên, a high officer of the Hanlin Academy, in Szechuan, in forming a company to exploit the mines of that province, and in also having established a bureau to encourage international commerce. As Sung alone, naturally, cannot continue to do all the necessary labour for making these schemes a lasting success, the edict appoints two wealthy men, Hau Tsien and Li Chêng-yung, holding Taotai rank, to assist the former in his work.

IT will be remembered that the Emperor gave, in a recent edict, his Viceroys and Governors one month to report upon what they intended to do, or had begun to do in connection with the proposed reforms in regard to the establishment of provincial colleges, secondary and elementary schools of Western learning, bureaux for the encouragement of commerce, railways, mining, agriculture and the various branches of mechanics within their various jurisdictions, on pain of condign punishment for disobedience to his Majesty's commands. According to dispatches received from Nanking, Soochow, and Yangtze ports, the Viceroys of the Liangkiang (Kiangsu, Kiangsi, and Anhui) and Hukuang (Hunan and Hupeh) have instructed their subordinate officers to report within ten days upon the above subjects, which seems to show that the provincial authorities are beginning to move at last under the determined efforts of H.I.M. Kuang Hsü. It is a fact that, with the exception of the now limited body of openly hostile conservative mandarins at the Metropolis and in the provinces, his Majesty's recent exertions for the reform and strengthening of his empire have endeared him to the great body of his subjects, not even excepting those who at present are in arms against the constituted authorities; many of the uprisings being really aimed at what his Majesty is now himself voluntarily granting and trying to compel his officers of the Crown to grant to the people. Should the Emperor be spared by Providence to continue his noble work of reform, few persons will in future be persuaded to rise up against the Manchu dynasty, which prior to this was universally believed to be in its last throes.

THE generally well-informed *Kuowênpao*, published at Tientsin, reports that the Kuangsi rebels have begun their northward march towards Peking and that a large and well-appointed army is now almost on the borders of Hunan province. Since their organisation recently, the practice of the rebels has, of late, been not to lay siege to any walled city but upon approaching one they generally form an entrenched camp, about four or five miles distant, from whence they issue proclamations calling upon the people not to be afraid, but to go on as usual in their various avocations, as no outrages would be permitted to be made on any peaceably inclined person. On the other hand, a dispatch is sent to the local authorities inside the threatened city, signed by the chief or chiefs commanding the invaders, demanding food supplies and money, the amount being generally proportionate to the size and reputed wealth of the city in question, on pain of fire and sword. "The incapable and cowardly officials," remarks the *Kuowênpao*, "seeing that, by compliance with the rebel demands, there will be no danger of losing their lives, rank, or acquired riches, always gladly accede to the calls made upon them, while the inhabitants of the place seeing first that they have not been molested by the rebels, and secondly, that their officials have no stomach for fighting the intruders, remain indifferent and keep on the even tenour of their ways as if there were no Empire-shaking rebellion within ten thousand miles of their city!" Having obtained what they demand—generally more—the rebel leaders break camp and take their forces to the next walled city, and so on, ever increasing in numbers, but always managing to keep the strictest discipline, until at last the latest reports show that these rebels, having traversed the length of Kuangtung province, are now on the point of invading Hunan where they have numerous brethren and sympathers; unless the Viceroy Chang Chih-tung and Governor Ch'ên Pao-chên succeed in driving back this second invasion after the lapse of over forty years of Kuangsi malcontents into the beautiful valley of the Yangtzekiang.

THIS is an explanation, which we believe to be the true one, of the motives which led Russia recently to threaten to demand the cession of the province of Kuldja. Recent so-called scientific expeditions in that portion of the Chinese Empire have revealed that beginning from the western end of the Celestial mountains trending southwest to the Altai mountains, dividing Kashgaria from the Russian frontiers of Ferghana, the whole plateau or steppe is filled with gold. One of these Russian "explorers," called "Ma" by the Chinese, was so struck with the capabilities of this new El Dorado that he started post-haste to Urumtsi, and engaging the assistance of the Russian Consul-General there, tried to persuade the Governor to grant him a lease of the country. Of course, any "request" of a Russian is now regarded with great suspicion by the Chinese officials and the request was refused. The next step was to get M. Pavloff to take up the cudgels at Peking, and his threats of a forced occupation of the country in question during the crisis when China refused to give up the loan contracted with the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank for the Newchwang Railway extension, compelled the Tsungli Yamên to yield to the Russian explorer's demand, but with the proviso that the company exploiting the gold mines must be composed as to one-half of Chinese capitalists and the other half, of course, of Russians. This was the *quid pro quo* for which M. Pavloff withdrew his so-called demand for the cession of Kuldja. The Russians appear to have lost no time, for at present, according to a Kashgar telegram, a number of Chinese and Russian officers are engaged in marking out the boundaries of their concession, while mining machinery is being already sent to the spot from Moscow.

WE have received the October issue of the *Child's Paper*, with illustrations, published by the Chinese Tract Society.

WE have received the September issue of the *Wan Kwoh Kung Pao—A Review of the Times*, edited by the Rev. Timothy Richard. The frontispiece is a portrait of Bismarck in his prime. It is published by the Diffusion Society and, as is now generally known, is doing a great educational work throughout the Empire.

THE steamer *Normand* plying between here and Woosung having been purchased by Messrs. Nils Möller & Co. now flies the British flag.

THE new Chinese cruiser *Haishêng* is now lying at the Old Dock wharf, and is well worth a visit. She is a fine-looking craft of about 2,900 tons, and is armed with three 15-centimetre and eight 10½-centimetre quick-firing Krupp guns, her secondary armament consisting of twelve Hotchkiss quick-firers. She was built by the Vulcan Works, at Stettin, and developed a speed of about 22 knots on her trial.

THE P. & O. str. *Coromandel* with the London mail of the 19th of August left Hongkong at 5 p.m. on Saturday for Shanghai. She brings 911 chests of Malwa opium and 4,199 bales of Bombay yarn.

THE s.s. *Darmstadt* left Singapore at daylight on Saturday carrying the Imperial German Mail, dated Berlin, 22nd August.

THE *Tacoma* left Hongkong at noon on Saturday and may be expected to arrive at Woosung to-morrow afternoon.

THE M. M. steamer *Laos* with the Mails from Japan left Nagasaki for Shanghai on Saturday at 11 a.m. and arrived at Woosung yesterday.

THE s.s. *Oanfa* left Singapore for Hongkong and Shanghai on the 10th instant.

THE *Ulysses* left Singapore on Thursday morning for Hongkong and Shanghai.

THE R.M.S. *Empress of Japan* arrived at Hongkong at 10 a.m. on Wednesday.

THE *Glengyle*, chartered by the Pacific Mail S. Co., arrived at San Francisco on the 8th inst. and the O. & O. steamer *Coptic* arrived there on the 9th inst.

THE *Glenfarg*, chartered by the Pacific Mail S. Co., arrived at Yokohama from San Francisco on Wednesday.

THE China Mutual steamer *Oanfa* arrived at Hongkong on Friday morning *en route* for Shanghai and Japan ports.

THE *Paoting* reports that on the 1st inst., while on a passage from Hongkong to Kobe, she sighted a junk under jury rig, flying signals of distress. The steamer bore down on her and found that she was bound from Tamsui to Foochow and was short of water and provisions. On the same day the *Paoting* passed several dismasted and abandoned junks and a large quantity of wreckage.

THE *Fujisan Maru* reports that on her passage from Kuchinotsu she experienced a strong N.W. gale, with thunder and heavy rain. In Lat. 31°.38 N., Long. 125° 10′ E., she passed a strongly built pyramid-shaped target, measuring about 12 feet each way.

THE *Chungking* reports that on the passage from Taku to Chefoo she experienced a very strong N.E. gale, with high sea; from Chefoo to Shanghai she had strong N.N.E. winds and heavy sea.

THE American barque *W. H. Conner*, which arrived from New York on Tuesday afternoon, when about 70 miles north of Formosa, on the 24th of August, experienced a typhoon of great severity, in which she lost her jib-boom, fore-topmast, and main top-gallantmast. The starboard bulwarks were badly damaged and 40 feet of the main rail washed away; the steering gear was also badly damaged. The ship had about three feet of water in the hold, but this all obtained access from the deck, there being no leak below.

AT the Mixed Court on Monday morning a coolie was charged with stealing a dairy licence, one milk tester, and a bucket, value $2.50, from a dairy on the Chu Hung Pang creek on the 10th ult. He was sentenced to 200 blows.—A dairyman was charged with receiving the above licence, well knowing it to have been stolen, and with making use of the same for the sale of his milk on the 10th ult. Mr. Christie stated that the prisoner had made an application for a licence but had been refused on account of the filthy condition of his dairy. Prisoner was fined $50.—A mafoo was charged with furiously driving a pony and carriage along the Bubbling Well Road on the 10th inst. A fine of $20 was imposed. —A native ex-constable was charged with assaulting native constable 221 on the Soochow Road by striking him about the body, on the 10th inst. He was sentenced to 100 blowsand a week's cangue.—A native, charged with stealing a private ricsha from 51, Sunkiang Road on the 12th inst., was sentenced to 200 blows.—The remanded case of two natives charged with being in unlawful possession of a skin box which at the time of its loss contained $295.50 and a number of bank cheques, was brought before the Court, but as the evidence was insufficient to warrant a conviction the prisoners were released on finding security.—On Tuesday morning a boy in the employ of Mr. Duncan Glass was charged with plying for hire with an unlicensed pony and carriage in the settlement, contrary to Municipal regulations. The boy it appears was allowed $37 per month to hire a pony and carriage for the use of his employer, but seeing an opportunity for a good investment, instead of hiring one he bought one, unknown to his master, for the sum of $300, and whenever Mr. Glass was not using it the prisoner hired it out to other people, and even went so far as to use the monogram of his master on the carriage. Prisoner was fined $10 and ordered to pay the fee licence for the past two months—A native was charged with being concerned with another man not in custody in breaking into and entering 217, Miller Road and stealing property valued at $70 on the 4th inst. Also with breaking into and stealing from 333, Chapoo Road a quantity of silk, value $70, on the 6th inst; with breaking into and stealing from 1104, North Szechuen Road property to the value of $1, and with being in unlawful possession of property, value $14, belonging to some person at present unknown. The case was remanded for one week.—A mafoo employed by Mr. Hunt, 11, Mohawk Road, was charged with creating a disturbance, leaving his employ without giving due notice, and intimidating his fellow servants. Complainant said that the prisoner had only been in his employ about four weeks and had during that time given him considerable trouble and had acted in a most insolent manner. The guilt of the prisoner was proved and the magistrate sentenced him to two days' imprisonment.—On Wednesday a well-known loafer was charged with being concerned with three other men not in custody in stealing $6 from a boat in the Defence Creek. He was sentenced to three months' imprisonment and to receive 200 blows.—On Thursday morning Chang Pan-sung, a loafer, was charged with stealing a sampan, value $30, from inside the Japanese wharf. Prisoner was sentenced to 200 blows.—A native charged with stealing a quality of bamboo fencing, value $1, from Kungping Road on the 14th inst. was sentenced to 100 blows and three days' cangue.—A sampan man, charged with assaulting and beating two municipal tax collectors (native and Sikh) while in the execution of their duty, was fined $1 and ordered to pay the $1 tax.—On Friday morning Lee Ching, a stable keeper on the Astor Road, was charged with keeping his stable in a filthy and insanitary condition on the 15th inst. A fine of $30 was imposed. —Sing Ah-ping, a boy in the employ of Mr. W. Curtis, 8, Canton Road, was charged with stealing $2 and a number of small articles, total value $2.90, the property of persons living in the house. Prisoner was sentenced to 50 blows and 14 days' imprisonment.—A native was sentenced to 200 blows for stealing one brass watch, two silver watches, one plated watch, one clock, and a silver chain, total value $45, from 182, Soochow Road, on the 15th inst.—Four coolies were charged with creating a disturbance and assaulting complainants in an alleyway off Broadway on the 15th inst. According to the evidence it appeared that the complainants consisted of a shroff, a watchman, and another man, all of whom had been sent to the house of one of the prisoners to collect three months' rent which was in arrears; failing this they attempted to evict the tenant and close up the house, to which he very naturally objected, as also did his neighbours—hence the disturbance. The prisoner was ordered by the magistrate to pay up the arrears.—A native boatman was sentenced at the on Saturday morning to 200 blows, one month's cangue, and five months' imprisonment, for cutting and wounding complainant with a knife in a shop on Boone Road, on the 11th inst.

THE *Foochow Echo* of the 10th inst. says:—

The German Mail steamer *Preussen* left Shanghai yesterday at daylight and passed into the river this morning at 8.30; a remarkably good run. We have not yet heard whether she was burning Kiaochou coal.

WE have received the *Peking & Tientsin Times* of the 10th inst.—It regards the dismissal of Li Hung-chang from the Tsungli Yamên "as a sign that a very healthy accession of firmness has characterised the British attitude in Peking.—The rain brought down eight mud houses on the Taku Road, Tientsin, on the 9th, causing six deaths.—The *Kuowênpao* says that three foreigners, presumably Russians, have been killed in a *mêlée* near Newchwang, and the *P. & T. Times* thinks "that a few Russian lives for which compensation must be demanded at Newchwang would suit Russia's book rather conveniently now."—The parade ground at Tientsin where the Imperial review is to take place is under water, and powerful pumps are to be procured from Taku.

MESSRS. BUSH BROS. write as follows under date Newchwang, 9th September:—

According to reports from the interior the crops are in excellent condition, and charterers have cabled to their southern constituents to make arrangements for autumn shipments. Present rates of produce are as follows:—Beancake, Tls. 7.00 per 10 pcs.: beans, Tls.5.67 per 300 c.; beanoil, Tls. 5.30 per 100 c.

The *Taiyo Maru* and *Yoritomo Maru* arrived yesterday morning from Muroran, the former laden with 16,000 and the latter with 4,900 railway sleepers. Freights for Kobe are exceedingly low at present, the *Taiyo Maru* having only $0.10 cents per picul.

On the 6th inst., the *Chiuyetsu Maru* was chartered here loading for Amoy 22,000 piculs at $0.17½.

The following steamers are now in port:—*Newchwang, Feiching, Sunko Maru, Taiyo Maru, Yoritomo Maru, Seiho Maru, Progress, Sullberg,* and *Foochow.*

WE have received Hongkong papers to the 12th inst.—Attorney-General Goodman goes home on six months' leave. Mr. Pollock will probably act for him during his absence.—The Manila papers are beginning to be partly printed in English.—H.M.S. *Powerful* left for Manila on the 7th.—Consul-General Wildman's brother Edwin has been appointed U.S. Vice and Deputy Consul-General at Hongkong.—Chinese who are exempt under the American Chinese Restrictive Act are permitted entry into Manila on bringing evidence to that effect to the U.S. Consul-General.—The *Tailee* has been chartered for the regular service of the China and Manila S. S. Co.—The French cruiser *Duguay-Trouin* is to be relieved on this station by the *Catinat*, Captain Massé.—A curious accident occurred on the Praya on the 8th. A cart was going along when the wheel came off, and the cart fell on to a junk which was seriously damaged by the collision.—The 31st ult. was a general holiday at Singapore in honour of Queen Wilhelmina.—H.M.S. *Immortalité* was expected to arrive that day from Manila.—The Kowloon *hinterland* convention was ratified on the 8th ult.—Messrs. Speidel & Co.'s godowns at Saigon were damaged by fire on the 3rd instant to the extent of $100,000, which was covered by insurance. —The Viceroy at Canton's resignation has been refused, but he has been granted two months' sick leave.—In the extra Gymkhana at Hongkong on the 10th, the Polo Ball Race, in pairs, was won by Capt. Laurie and Mr. Johnson, K.O.; the Jumping Competition by *Tramp*, ridden by Mr. Johnson; the Ladies' Nomination, No. 1, by Mr. Green, nominated by Miss Dot Jackson; and the Ladies' Nomination, No. 2, by Mr. Moxon, nominated by Miss Chambers.

THE *Hongkong Daily Press* says that the Madras Municipality is paying six-pice for every rat or bandicoot killed, and three-pice per mouse. The returns show 32,733 rats, 8,750 bandicoots, and almost 10,000 mice killed within five weeks. The rodents, which are supposed to convey the plague, are being cremated.

THE *Laos*, which arrived yesterday evening, brings heart-reading accounts of the havoc worked by the recent typhoon in Japan. The *Japan Mail* of the 12th, after giving some particulars, still very incomplete, says:—

Adding together all the figures thus far received, we obtain these results:—

Deaths	250
Houses swept away	164
Houses overthrown	1,195
Houses partially overthrown	1,460
Houses inundated	15,597
Banks broken	78
Arable lands inundated ...	15,317 acres

The last figure is undoutedly much below the mark, as in some instances no attempt has been made to estimate the area under water.

WE have received Japan papers with dates from Yokohama to the 7th, Kobe the 9th, and Nagasaki the 16th inst:—Many buildings have been destroyed and some lives lost by a flood at Sendai.—In the recent typhoon in Formosa the walls of a mine on Kinka mountain collapsed, and 33 coolies were buried alive.—The British Consulates at Kobe and Yokohama are to be put on an equal footing in the future.—There was a big storm at Yokohama on the night of the 6th.—The Japanese accused of fatally wounding a German stoker on the 7th of July last has been sentenced to two years' major imprisonment.—The *Enoshima Maru*, which was stranded in Kelung harbour in a typhoon, has been floated.—Captain Curnow was lashed to the bridge of the *Tenshin Maru* on the way from Yokohama to Kobe last week, and his portion of the bridge was carried away by a heavy sea and dashed on the deck, Captain Curnow receiving an ugly wound on the head.—The Tokio Marine Court has suspended for five months the certificate of Captain Tate, a British subject, he being held to blame for the collision between the *Soya Maru* and *Kumagawa Maru*.—The Rev. Mr. Freeman, chaplain of the U.S.S. *Baltimore*, who was being sent home in the *Zeelandia* under observation, drowned himself in Nagasaki harbour on the 12th. —In the typhoon at Yokohama on the 7th the sailing ship *Lyndhurst* broke adrift from her moorings and collided with the *Marco Polo*, doing damage for which the latter claims $18,000.—Eleven palace attendants have been arrested at Seoul for putting poison in the tea of the Emperor and the Prince Imperial.

The following telegrams are from the *Kobe Chronicle*:

Peking, 3rd September.

A Convention has been concluded between Germany and China relating to Kiaochou Bay. The gist of the arrangement is that Kiaochou Bay shall be opened to the trade of vessels of all nations and the export and import of goods; that China may establish a Custom-house at Kiaochou; and that the import of goods from other parts of China (the coasting trade) shall be free from duties.

Shanghai, 7th September.

It is reported that Great Britain has abandoned the contract for the construction of the Newchwang Raliway, and that Russia has abandoned all interest in the Lu-Han Railway.

Tokushima, 7th September.

Owing to the heavy rainfall in the past few days, a whole hillside at Mina-mura, Miyoshi district, has slipped down for a distance of 2,430 feet.

Yesterday the waves on the shore of Komatsushima-mura, Katsura district, came up very high, and the embankment gave way for an extent of some 240 feet. The inhabitants believed it to be a tidal wave and were in a great state of consternation.

Nagoya, 8th September.

Several houses and four people have been washed away and are missing. Extensive damage has been done to houses, banks, roads, and bridges in this prefecture.

We have received the *London and China Express* of the 12th ult. It says, after some remarks on the Newchwang Railway breakdown, "It is none the less galling to know that China thinks more of Russian threats than British promises."—It is possible that Mr. Austen Chamberlain will succeed Mr. Curzon at the Foreign Office.—The H. and S. Bank beat the Consolidated Gold Fields of South Africa at cricket at North Dulwich on the 6th ult. by 174 to 65 runs.—Mr. T. L. Bullock is in the running for the Professorship of Chinese at Oxford.—Bar silver was steady at 27$\frac{5}{16}$d.—All best quality China tea has passed out of importers' hands.

The Java correspondent of the *Singapore Free Press* writes:—The steamer *Reael* gives a fuller account of her experiences in the Gulf of Tomini. When she was on her way to Palos Bay, on the 8th of August, she got all at once, at eight in the morning, an ash shower and thereafter a rain of mud. It became dark, and the Captain could hardly see in front of him. Not only the darkness hindered the ship in getting along, but also a heavy sea, which come up and caused a serious accident. The *serang*, engaged in making a ladder fast which had broken loose from the heavy rolling of the ship, was struck by a wave and carried overboard. Everything was done to save him. The Captain had buoys thrown out, the engines stopped and the ship turned to look for the drowning man. The darkness and the falling mud hindered their efforts and the man was not found. The *Reael* proceeded to Paré-Paré. The mud was still falling at 11 a.m. On the deck, masts, and awning there was a layer of mud upwards of six inches thick, which gave much trouble in getting it away. It is supposed that the mud came from an active volcano ("*vuurspuwende*"!) on an island in the Gulf of Tomini. The mud and ash came, by a strong easterly wind, over the Celebes to the West Coast. The heavy sea met on the West Coast, when the *Reael* passed, appears to be ascribable to the westerly wind, which blew strongly.

Mrs. de T. tried to get Mrs. B.'s amah away from her and actually went to Mrs. B.'s house when she was out and offered the amah more money. The next time the ladies met at a dinner party Mrs. B. took no notice of Mrs. de T. Some one who sat between them said:—

"Mrs. B., you know Mrs. de T., do you not?"

"No—I believe not," said Mrs. B; "she sometimes calls on my amah, I understand!"—*Foochow Echo.*

The following letter from the Rev. Gilbert Reid appears in the *Daily Chronicle* of the 2nd ult.:—

Sir,—Amid the many perplexities pertaining to the destiny of China I wish to point out in a definite direction the progressive tendencies of the governing classes of China. It is hardly two years since I presented, in my own name, to the Imperial Board of Foreign Affairs the plan of an institute of learning to be termed International, but to aim for the welfare of the Chinese people and the preservation and reform of the existing Government. It, therefore, appealed to both the conservative and progressive elements among the mandarins at the Capital. After much consideration and conference this plan was formally sanctioned by the eleven members of that body, including Prince Kung and Li Hung-chang, and the document, duly sealed, was sent to my house direct as the first "concession" to a foreigner—a concession for an enterprise of enlightenment. The "concession" being granted, I have since been labouring to form a "syndicate," ready to carry out the terms of the agreement, and effect the plan which had been presented. The plan of this International Institute, to be established as a means of moulding the ideas of the ruling and literary classes, comprises a library and reading room (a real public library), a museum or exposition building, class rooms and reception rooms, and public auditorium. All this is not meant to take the place of technical training furnished by a university, but to stimulate to wise action and new methods the men of power in the Government, giving them new ideas, sympathetic counsel, and increased knowledge.

Plainly, this plan is a friendly one. The ones to further it will be the friends of China—broad-minded men, actuated by a cosmopolitan spirit, and recognising the good in the Chinese, and the possibilities of their country. I am glad to acknowledge that both the Chinese and all classes of foreign residents in China, of every nationality and creed, came forward to encourage these efforts and to contribute to its support. As a tangible proof, £3,000 were subscribed in China, or one-fifth of the building fund.

Being an American, I next visited my native land. I confess it was a most difficult and thankless task to try to induce the public-spirited men of the United States to do anything in a large way to thus help project Western ideas into the midst of Chinese officialdom. By perseverance there was secured £6,000 in subscriptions, one-third being for the building fund. On the eve of greater success came the war with Spain.

In accordance with the international scope of the undertaking, I am now making a brief visit to Europe before returning to China. Naturally, I expect more sympathy and support from the British public than from others, as all plans for extending the benefits of Christian civilisation have always met with quick response in the British heart. The cordiality thus far accorded to my humble efforts is most cheering. I am ready to prove that this institutional work affords an open door into China for Western ideas of civilisation, commerce, education, and religion. Being in close touch with the leading men of China, there is greater facility for exerting a far-reaching influence than if we relied on our personal endowments. There are few but realise that if China is to be helped along lines of progress now is the time. Who are China's friends?

The *Pall Mall Gazette* of the 1st ult. writes as follows. It is curious how entirely the writer ignores the magnificent constructive work done by Gladstone in his reform of our fiscal system, to which England's great commercial prosperity is due to so large an extent:—

Bismarck was the greatest of modern constructive statesmen, not merely a great personality with a genius for destruction and dissolution, such as one we buried at Westminster the other day; and United Germany mourns for him as one man, and it is meet that she should do so. Thanks to him, Germans no longer, as it was sarcastically said, leave the earth to be possessed by one nation, and the sea by another, reserving to themselves only the sky wherein to lose themselves in the clouds of a vain philosophy. We know, because we see, how mighty is the transformation which has been wrought by this man's work. His gift has been a very Pandora's box, rich with the power and the glory, not of arms alone, but of political prestige, and above all, of a wonderful and world-wide commercial activity. Faust himself was not more strangely transformed than is the Germany we know to-day by comparison with the Germany our fathers knew before us. Yet all is not unmixed gain; there is some alloy mixed with the gold of the new German Crown. Germany is great, indeed, to-day; but she has to pay a grievously heavy price for her greatness. While the strong man armed keeps his house, his goods are in peace; but there is ever the fear lest a stronger than he may come, and it is to that fear that Germany owes the burden of her armour—which burden is heavy indeed. And it is not upon German shoulders alone that the weight of that panoply is pressing. The whole of Europe feels it; in the Far East Japan has been compelled to imitate that dubious blessing of European civilisation, and America, which has justly boasted of her immunity therefrom, finds herself inexorably constrained to join in the never-ending race for armed predominance. We, in England, have not escaped—how should we?—and ready as we are to bear the burden which our Imperial destiny has laid upon us, we cannot forget that the primary reponsibility for this necessity rests with the man who first conceived the idea of using the military organisation of Prussia as the instrument of German unity. Nothing is more idle than speculation as to what would have happened if some great piece had been withdrawn from the chessboard of history. Wherefore it is useless to enquire whether the inevitable force of things was or was not bound to turn the world into a vast armed camp under the influence of modern perfection of organisation and armament. What we do know is that the giant who gave the great gift of national unity to Germany left also to her and to the world his terrible legacy of ceaseless preparation for a war of giants.

Holloway's Pills.—Good Digestion.—Holloway's Pills are universally acknowledged to be the safest, speediest, and best corrective for indigestion; loss of appetite, acidity, flatulency, and nausea are a few of the inconveniences which are remedied with ease by these purifying Pills. They strike at the root of all abdominal ailments, they excite in the stomach a proper secretion of gastric juice and regulate the action of the liver, promoting in that organ a copious supply of pure, wholesome bile, so necessary for digestion. These Pills remove all distention and obstruction and from their harmless composition are deculiarly well adapted for delicate persons and young children; whilst casting out impurities the excellent Pills strengthen the system and give muscular tone. 25

Miscellaneous Articles.

RECENT REPORTS ON COMMERCIAL EDUCATION.

14th Sept.

There has lately been an International Congress on Commercial Education held at Antwerp, under the auspices of the Belgian Government. The promoters of this Congress were the members of the *Cercle des Anciens Etudiants de l'Institut Supérieur du Commerce d'Anvers,* and the occasion was the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the formation of the *Cercle.* Official representatives from most European countries, including Great Britain, were present.

The whole question of commercial education from the multiplication table to the multiplication of means of communication seems to have been discussed, and some practical results arrived at. Most of the assembly seem to have agreed on the following points: (1) That there is no need to introduce any special commercial training into primary schools. (2) That a good general education should be given in secondary schools after the type of the German *Realschule* and the French superior secondary schools, but that *efforts should be made to give to the teaching a more practical form.*

Higher commercial instruction is already provided for in Germany and France, in the former especially where some 200 schools specially instituted for the purpose already exist. The Ministry of Commerce supports similar institutions in France. The Germans, however, are not yet satisfied in the matter. They want the universities to give "that special instruction which is now required in the higher walks of commercial life," and failing that it has been decided to establish at Leipsic a veritable commercial university with a roll of more than 200 students. This will probably be the first strictly commercial university the world has ever seen, and as a mark of the profound change now in progress in the educational world it is not without its use. But its prime object is to prove to the world at large that knowledge, particularly technical and exact knowledge, is power. The Germans of late years have been foremost amongst the world's great educators. They taught the value of compulsory education and civilised Europe dutifully profited by the lesson. They demonstrated the possibility of training a nation to arms, and have been flattered by obsequious imitation even by uncivilised European states. They were the first to develop a perfect military organisation, and by a couple of object lessons in 1866 and 1870-1 showed other nations that it was time for them to turn paper men and horses into real flesh and blood. Having been phenomenally successful in all these ways, the German has now turned his attention to commerce, and after his thorough fashion is showing the world once more "how to do it." Lovers of Dickens will remember the Circumlocution Office and "how not to do it." We are very much afraid that venerable institution still survives in Great Britain, and that not merely our commercial and home affairs are managed by it, but that it has captured the Foreign Office as well.

Even Italy has three institutions upon the same principle as the Institute at Antwerp. They are at Geneva, Venice, and Bari, and the course of instruction beginning at sixteen years of age, and lasting either three or five years, is said to be highly successful. France has eleven higher commercial schools.

It is interesting to note how strongly the word "practical" has seized upon Frenchman, Briton, and German alike. The study of foreign languages is insisted on—not the old-fashioned method in which an Englishman teaches French, and a Frenchman English, but the only true method, by which English is taught by English, and French by French. A German delegate put the whole matter of practicality very plainly when he said: "We, in Germany, do not care to know anything about a river unless it will float a ship, and new countries interest us only when they afford an outlet for our industry."

All this, of course, should have its lesson for the greatest commercial people of the earth. There is too great a tendency to sneer at school commerce and college business. A little while since a Metropolitan weekly drew a highly comforting picture of continental youths playing at business while the British boy was engaged in the real thing. There is something to be said even to-day for this view, but what was eminently successful without competition may be a woeful failure with it, With one man on the racing track it is easy to come in first, but lasting power, nerve, and muscle have to be brought into play when there are many. England practically had the commerce of the world to herself for a century. She was first because competitors were not in the running. Her old-world methods served her well under such conditions. It is certain they will not serve to-day. She must adopt new methods or drop out of the race. Here in Shanghai our British youth exhibit the good and bad qualities of their progenitors. They have a fair, only fair, acquaintance with their own language. They know no other. Their German friends speak English so fluently, so idiomatically, and so willingly that the good-natured English lad thinks why should he take the trouble to acquire German?

The Chinese again patters in pidgin-English. and makes himself understood—more or less. What boy, with a healthy regard for British tradition, would learn five characters of Chinese unless he had the fear of Sir Robert Hart before his eyes? He has two objects in life, (1) to get through his day's routine with as little trouble to himself as possible, and (2) to spend the remainder of his time in cricket, golf, or football, and their literature. But once let the "competition-wallah" appear on the scene and our athletic ignoramus will have to take to the out-door Customs—or stone-breaking.

It was openly stated at the Antwerp Congress that England was a quarter of a century behind France in the matter of higher commercial study. Our readers must not make the mistake of supposing that these institutions are merely for the purpose of preparing a sort of superior clerk. They are rather intended to produce merchants who will "be able to transact their business on a scientific basis, and give to their commercial transactions an impetus which would materially extend their country's home and foreign trade." They have, moreover, in view "the training of professors of the higher commercial sciences, and men who would effectively undertake the duties of the Consular service." How much there is to be done in these particulars none know better than the well-informed members of such a community as this.

SAFETY AT SEA: MORE LIGHT.

15th Sept.

The brave men who man the ships that sail the China Sea, the passengers who travel in these ships, and the owners and insurers of the cargo carried in them, may well be congratulated on the fact that under the able administration of the Engineer's and Coast Inspector's Departments of the Imperial Maritime Customs, we shall soon see a vast and most notable improvement in the lighting of the coast of China. Not only are some of the existing lights to be made to show a greater range, but a change of far wider benefit is in progress, which will add greatly to the efficiency of the present lights, and should make it almost impossible for an accident to occur in the vicinity of a light, when the state of the atmosphere allows it to be seen at all. The old primitive fixed light is to disappear from the Chinese lighthouses, and every light not occulting, flashing, or revolving, is to be made so.

The improvements made by science within the past thirty years enable the lights of the present day to be shown at a comparatively small cost by improved burners, better lenses, and better reflectors; and to those entrusted with the charge and responsibility of a ship, the addition of only two, three, or four miles to the warning power of a light is of great value, especially in the bad weather constantly experienced on the China coast, where the fogs are remarkable for their density. The boon now about to be conferred on the seaman in the unmistakable marking of every light will be an immense one. Years ago when steamers were few and far between on the ocean, when a sailing vessel even in the English Channel where vessels were thickest showed no lights at all when under way, and only steamers carried a masthead and side lights, a fixed light marking a danger or a pivot point in navigation answered all purposes. The young seaman of to-day will hardly credit it that in the examinations fifty years ago, the question being: "Going down Channel or amongst shipping what precaution would you adopt?" the answer was: "Have a good light ready in a bucket to show." To the question: "A steamer coming towards or near you, what would you do?" the answer was: "Show the light and stand on." Years rolled on before the law ordered that sailing ships under way should show sidelights, and the order met with the opposition that any change however beneficial meets with from the average Englishman, who so dislikes change. "What did for my father at sea and for me till now should be good enough for others," was the cry; and the moment a ship cleared the land in those days, even the "light in the bucket ready to show" was put away, until land was about to be made, it might be India, China, Australia, or wherever the ship was bound for. The fact that nowadays barges under way at night show sidelights, and good ones too, would have astounded the past generation of seamen. Nowhere is more use made of sidelights than in Japan, where not only junks carry them, but every pulling-boat in the harbours shows a lamp with red and green sides, and a small spot of white in the centre.

But to return from this digression. Nowadays not only has the number of steamers been enormously increased, but they are always being added to. Time is all-important, and steamers have to proceed on their voyages in despite of weather, and the lights carried at the mast heads of large mail steamers and others are so clear and powerful and show at such a long range, that when the seaman is on the look-out for a shore fixed light, it takes him a long time with the most careful observation to decide in his own mind if it is the light he is expecting to sight or that of a steamer approaching him. There is great danger in this, as it may induce the seaman to alter his course when he should not do so, or stand on when he ought at once to change his course; and this danger has often been incurred, particularly in thick, hazy, or foggy weather. The conversion of fixed lights into distinctive lights will put an end to this danger. One minute, or at the utmost three to five minutes, will enable the seaman to decide with absolute certainty both by sight and watch if the light sighted is the one expected to be made. At any rate he will know with certainty that it is not a steamer, and if necessary he can stop his vessel till its distinctive flashes, etc., show unmistakably what light it is. Both China and Japan are to be congratulated on the great progress they have made and are still making in regard to the number, range, and quality of the lights that guard their coasts.

But if it is a matter of congratulation that so much intelligent energy has been displayed in the Far East, what shall be said of the supineness shown in the West? To this day, nearly the end of the nineteenth century, the lower part of the Red Sea—and Far Eastern residents are deeply interested in this question—is in the same unguarded state that it was when Noah's Ark was the only vessel afloat; and so two hundred miles of the most intricate and difficult navigation to be met with anywhere in the run between England and the East is entirely unprotected by the science of to-day. Yet every day the size, speed, and value of ships and cargoes are increasing by leaps and bounds, while the time question enters more and more into all voyages, and the number of lives at stake increases daily, and yet nothing is done. Every proposal to erect lights which will be a safeguard to life and property of all nations which use the Red Sea is immediately stifled for political reasons. The French stand in the way, and our Governments, one after the other, are too weak to insist on the French claims being withdrawn or settled. The Government of the Khedive of Egypt with the full support of Lord Cromer is ready and willing to erect at once four first-class lights of the latest design on points already marked out as the best positions for them. Morice Pasha, R.N., Comptroller of Ports and Lights, has strongly recommended the erection of these lights without delay, it being understood that no extra charge will be laid on vessels passing up and down the Red Sea, as the money needed is in hand, and the work could be set in motion in twenty-four hours, There is absolutely no obstacle but simple jealousy and ill-will, and it is monstrous that England with so much more at stake than any other Power should permit this state of things to last.

When we clear the Red Sea, bound eastward, by some four hundred or five hundred miles, we near the island of Socotra, and as this island is under British protection, we have only ourselves to blame that no light is shown on it to assist the vessels voyaging to and fro. When a valuable ship with still more valuable lives is lost on Socotra, some official who probably does not know where Socotra is, promises in reply to an indignant question in the House of Commons that a lighthouse shall be built there and a light maintained. But when the excitement has passed, the promise is forgotten until another wreck occurs. The British Government have made themselves answerable to the world at large for this fine island, and will not allow any other Power a footing on it; surely they are accountable for its being properly safeguarded to meet the requirements of modern navigation. If we are so poor that the cost of maintenance of the light is an object, it might be arranged only to exhibit the light from the first of May to the thirtieth of September in each year, during the south-west monsoon; from the 1st of October to the 30th of April the weather is so fine about Socotra that daily, almost hourly, observations are obtainable, and a loss from ignorance of the ship's position is practically impossible. Socotra is under the Bombay Government, and if the cost of a lighthouse there is an obstacle to its being built, the old Colaba Point Lighthouse at Bombay, which has been superseded by the Prong's Lighthouse, might be taken down and shipped to Socotra and re-erected there. Surely we must not be obliged to wait for another terrible wreck with loss of life to make those in authority see the absolute necessity for a good light on Socotra.

While we are on the subject of lights we may mention a commendable change that has been recently introduced in the warning lights shown on the breakwater ends or buoys, etc., at Genoa, Naples, Brindisi, Alexandria, and Suez Roads. Vessels entering these ports now find a green light on their starboard hand and a red light on their port hand. It is now "Green to Green or Red to Red, Perfect safety, go ahead." The idea is that it is the getting into a port that is the difficulty, when no pilot is obtainable or from other causes; when she is once in port in safety a vessel can always get a pilot to take her out or can be secure inside till the weather, if it is bad, moderates. Now the seaman can see for himself, if he elects to run in for shelter or not wait for a pilot; so long as he keeps the warning Red light to his Red, and the Green to his Green, he can go in without risk. It is a very useful and beneficial change, and its adoption might well be taken into consideration by other nations.

THE SENIOR CONSUL-SHIP.

16th Sept.

In the minutes of the meeting of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce held on the 13th instant a somewhat significant enquiry will have been noticed—an enquiry the answer to which will be awaited with very considerable interest. In acknowledging a dispatch from Senhor Valdez, Consul-General for Portugal, wherein he announces that he has "assumed" the position of Senior Consul, the Committee of the Chamber ask with much modesty if Senhor Valdez proposes to occupy the post of Doyen "permanently" or only pending the return of his predecessor the Consul-General for Germany. Whether or no any further question hangs on Senhor Valdez' reply we are of course quite unaware, but, be that as it may, we believe we are representing the views of the whole community when we say that, though holding Senhor Valdez in the highest personal esteem, and though second to none in our respect for the nation he represents, the position of Senior Consul should be occupied by the representative of a Power having far greater influence and interests both politically and commercially, and further that he should have a strong and efficient interpretorial staff, versed not only in the traditions of a country which has "served its generation," but up to date in the many complex questions now pending in these Settlements and their vicinity. Dr. Stuebel himself, we are told, just before his departure for Japan, pointed out that till within the last few years, there had been an unwritten law recognised by the Consular Body generally that the Senior Consulship should be held by the representative of Great Britain, the United States, or Germany; and he expressed some surprise that this law was not to be followed on his departure.

It is true the Senior Consul does not when communicating with the Ministers in Peking on Community matters address the Minister for his own country; he addresses the Doyen of the Diplomatic Body; but the fact that Portugal has no Minister at Peking cannot fail to lessen the Consul-General for that country in the eyes of the Chinese officials, and consequently is to the detriment of this community if its aims and aspirations are to be permanently in his keeping as Doyen and Chairman of the Consular Body at this port.

Had Great Britain and the United States of America respectively adopted the same course as France and retained exclusive control of their Settlements, which in origin and status are just as much "Concessions" as the so-called French "Concession," the question of Doyenship would not exist, but it is not proposed at the moment to go back on existing arrangements. The Anglo-Saxons as usual opened the door to all, and the result is that not only the representatives of the Great Powers are members of the Consular Body here, but every Consul of every foreign country however small its practical interests and influence may be, has his "say" and his vote. It is indeed possible (though happily improbable) that at a meeting of the Consular Body the Consuls for Great Powers, say, Germany, the United States, Great Britain, and even adding Russia, might find themselves outvoted by the Consuls for less important countries. This is not as it should be, and if the Consul-General for Portugal has assumed the post of Doyen permanently, it is time for this community to see what can be done to mend matters.

It is of course possible for the Chamber of Commerce to go past the Doyen and put its wants and views before the Consul for one of the countries more influential and more deeply interested in trade, but still if the system of a Consular Body, presided over by its Doyen, is to continue, it is impossible always to go past the latter without leading to friction and confusion, whilst the *modus operandi* of the Municipal Council in its relations to the Consular Body would under such circumstances be at least perplexing. We believe further that the position of Doyen carries with it that of President of the Court of Consuls, a body of three only, which has judicial powers over the Municipal Council, and we should like to hear what the latter may have to say. We again record our high esteem for the Consul-General for Portugal and assure him we are only discharging a public and by no means welcome duty in ventilating this subject.

ARTICLES DE PARIS.

16th Sept.

We extract the following information, supplementary to that which Reuter has given us, from the Havas telegrams published in the *Echo de Chine.* We are not ungracious enough to accuse the Havas service of the habitual partiality of which the *Echo* accuses Reuter:—Paris, 27th August.—On the anniversary of his trip to Russia, M. Faure has exchanged with the Czar telegrams renewing their warm and invariable good wishes. 28th August.—The St. Petersburg *Messager Officiel* publishes a note from the Czar communicated by M. Muravieff to all the Foreign Ministers, in which all the Governments are invited to meet in a Conference and discuss a reduction of armaments to ensure a general peace. 29th August.—The French Press applauds the Czar's proposition, but insists on the legitimate hopes of France being safeguarded. The English Press foresees great practical difficulties. 30th August.—At St. Petersburg the *Novosti* says that the Conference would discuss disarmament only when the reasons for the existing armaments have been elucidated or removed.—Then we have the news already received as to Colonel Henry's confession, arrest, and suicide; and the naïve remark is made that it is believed that Colonel Henry's crime does not prove Dreyfus's innocence. On the 1st instant the resignation of General Boisdeffre, Chief of the Staff, is announced; he is replaced by General Rénouard. It will be remembered that General Boisdeffre was one of the men accused by name by M. Zola of conspiring to stifle the efforts made to prove that not Dreyfus but Esterhazy was the real culprit; while at the trial of M. Zola in February last he refused to say anything but that he was convinced of the guilt of Dreyfus.—Then we have on the 3rd instant: The movement in the Press in favour of a revision of the Dreyfus case is gaining strength. 4th September.—M. Cavaignac has resigned because he disagrees with his colleagues on the question of the Dreyfus case. The Ministers will meet at the Elysée to-morrow and examine the demand of Madame Dreyfus for a revision; it is considered certain that they will consent to the demand, not because they believe in the innocence of Dreyfus, but as a satisfaction to public opinion which has been worried by the recent incidents.

And so our trust in the French love of justice is not misplaced, and it seems that at last Dreyfus, whether innocent or guilty, will have a fair trial.

THE BRITISH MINISTER AT PEKING.

17th Sept.

The Far Eastern Question and the present and future aspect of affairs in China are still occupying a large share of the attention of the thinking public in England, and justly so. There has been the maximum of talk and the minimum of action in connection with British policy in China, in fact, there has been such a plethora of the former that very little more remains to be said on the subject and any one attempting to write upon it is extremely liable to lay himself open to a charge of plagiarising other peoples' ideas. Attacks have been made by more or less responsible persons in the Press, in Parliament, and on public platforms, on the Chinese policy of the British Government and on those entrusted with the carrying out of that policy, much of which, it must be admitted, has been only too well justified by the outcome of our policy in China. The *Saturday Review*, however, in the course, of an able review of Mr. Colquhoun's new book, *China in Transformation*, makes an attack upon Sir Claude Macdonald which is, we think, entirely unjustified and unjustifiable, having regard to facts. The man who states that as a Minister Sir Claude's failure has been "conspicuous and complete" can have very little knowledge of the amount of really good solid work Sir Claude has done for British interests in China, handicapped and fettered as he has been by Chinese duplicity and procrastination on the one hand, combined with the intrigues of others, and the criminal supineness of the Foreign Office on the other. There can be very little doubt in the minds of those who have had the opportunity of studying the trend of events on the spot that Sir Claude is a really able Minister, and that had he been allowed a free hand instead of being hampered by instructions from home, the outcome of our policy in China would have been far different from what it actually has been. We do not pretend to believe that it would be impossible to find a better man to represent British interests in Peking—Lord Cromer, for instance, would, we think be a better—but we do maintain that he is a thoroughly good and conscientious Minister, and that the failures have not been his, but are to be laid directly to the charge of Downing Street.

We cannot bring ourselves to think that if Sir Claude Macdonald had not been fettered by instructions from his chief we should have had to lament the loss of our prestige in China—for that it has been lost there is very little room for doubt. Sir Claude, as the writer of the review in question says, had had no diplomatic experience before he was selected by Lord Salisbury to succeed Sir Nicholas O'Conor, but that, as we have often pointed out, has proved to be by no means a drawback, but rather an advantage, as he was not bound by the coils of red-tape without which the trained diplomatist appears to find it impossible to transact even the most trivial business. We have in Sir Claude at any rate a Minister who can and does go straight to the point without employing all the wearisome and harassing methods of "diplomacy" with which we are only too familiar. A glance at the work Sir Claude has accomplished, in spite of the handicap under which he has laboured, will bear out our assertions, and show that his failure has been neither "conspicuous" nor "complete" as the *Saturday's* critic would have us believe it has been. The opening of the West River and the inland waterways to steam navigation, the opening of new ports, and the Kowloon extension—to say nothing of the many minor concessions wrung from unwilling Chinese statesmen—all point to an amount of solid work of which Sir Claude may be justly proud. Again, would Sir Nicholas O'Conor have fearlessly accused Li Hung-chang to his face of being a hired tool of Russia, however certain he may have been that such was the case? We believe not. If Sir Claude had done nothing else but secure the dismissal of this reputed traitor from office he would have justified his selection as British representative in Peking. Critics at home are too apt to lose sight of the work done by a Minister, work which in many cases is productive of the best results to our trade and commerce, in the glare of mistakes made by others, but which they are prone to unjustly lay at his door. In the present instance we are quite certain that if the feeling of the whole British community in China could be ascertained, it would be found to be one of confidence in Sir Claude. In conclusion, we would repeat that we firmly believe that whatever successes British diplomacy has scored in Peking are to be credited to Sir Claude Macdonald, but that the ghastly failures which have undoubtedly been perpetrated are his we entirely refuse to admit.

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Review.

THE FRENCH MAIL PAPERS.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 12TH OF AUG.

The *Times* begins its first leading article on the 11th ult. with the words: "Mr. George Curzon is the new Viceroy of India. It is a striking appointment and a great experiment." It is a striking appointment, perhaps, Mr. Curzon being what is known among politicians as a young man. That it is a great experiment we cannot agree, for Mr. Curzon seems to us to have been really trained for the post of Viceroy of India, and the moment his name was mentioned we felt sure that it was he and no other Curzon who had accepted the post. He is thirty-nine, he has added success to success ever since he went to Balliol, he knows the East well, having travelled largely in Asia, several times as correspondent of the *Times*. As the *Times* says :—

> Mr. Curzon's reputation for being able to combine hard work with extreme readiness of speech, and even sometimes with eloquence, has grown steadily; though in his recent speeches and replies on the Chinese question he has laid himself open to very serious criticism. It is not our only ground of quarrel with him that this brilliant ex-correspondent of *The Times* has lately seemed to entertain a less favourable opinion of correspondents of *The Times* than he used to have. The policy of which he has been the mouthpiece disappointed us, as have, sometimes, Mr. Curzon's tactics in the exposition of it. But these points of disagreement are not at all the points on which we would lay stress to-day.

Mr. Curzon has always been a little too superior, and he is not exactly genial; but these are very slight drawbacks to set against his great qualifications for the post he has achieved. The *Times* concludes its article by saying :—

> We sincerely trust, for Mr. Curzon's sake and for that of the Empire, that Lord Salisbury's very interesting experiment will succeed. The first requisite must be Mr. Curzon's restoration to health; for, as Mr. Balfour remarked so sympathetically last night, he has for some time been unwell and has often been compelled to be absent from the House. But fortunately he has always been in better health, in robust health indeed, in Eastern lands. They have till now been the best of tonics for him; we trust that this may be the case again. Given this indispensable condition, in very many other ways Mr. Curzon has great advantages. He has youth, wealth, cleverness, and—as the society of Calcutta and Simla will soon discover—a charming wife. These are no common endowments, which ought to assure success, on the social side, to the new Viceroy's career. As to the positions that he leaves vacant at home, there is sure to be a keen struggle at Southport; but a good candidate should be able to keep the seat for the Unionists. To fill the Under-Secretaryship will be a more difficult matter, as the conditions of our Parliamentary system, unfortunately, prevent Lord Salisbury from offering the post to Sir Edward Grey. Various names are being mentioned, notably that of Mr. George Wyndham. As a close friend, ally, and former secretary of Mr. Balfour, and a strenuous defender of the Ministry in its recent difficulties, Mr. Wyndham is by no means an unlikely choice, and he might well be a success. But his nomination, too, would be something of an experiment.

The *Times*, under the guidance of its invaluable correspondent at Peking, keeps up its interest in the China question. In its issue of the 8th ult. it prints the following note, dated St. Petersburg, the 4th of August :—

> In an article on Lord Salisbury's recent speech in the House of Lords on Chinese railway concessions the *Novosti* dwells with special satisfaction on the Premier's remark that such concessions did not involve political influence in the country which granted them, and that Russia might construct as many railways in China as reemed good to her, provided that she did not obtain privileges prejudicial to British commerce. The *Novosti* hopes that such sentiments as these may find expression as often as possible in the British Parliament, in order to dispel the erroneous opinions entertained regarding Russia's policy in the Far East. "It is a mistake," continues the journal, "for Great Britain to forget too often that if Russia really wished to injure British interests it would be quite possible for her to do so, first of all in India, whereas she has, on the contrary, concluded a convention with Great Britain which guarantees the latter's Indian possession against all danger from the side of Russia. There cannot be either any question of danger to British interests in China from Russia. We should not be in a position to expel Great Britain from the Chinese markets, and we have no need to do so. Such a danger as this is more threatened by Germany than by us. What, then, have the British to fear? The Manchurian Railway? That only serves as the natural extension of the Trans-Siberian line and can only benefit Great Britain.
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> "It is a mistake to regard Russia as the rival of Great Britain—although, in truth, it is difficult to see how they can be rivals, considering how different are their spheres of activity. There is something altogether abnormal in Anglo-Russian relations. Perhaps an explanation is to be found in the radical difference between the Anglo-Saxon and Slav characters. Whatever may be said, Great Britain and Russia wlll not succeed in understanding each other. The efforts made in this direction by persons so worthy of consideration as the late Mr. Gladstone or as Lord Salisbury are deserving of all respect; but of what avail are the efforts of a few isolated persons? It behoves us to wait until a favourable change takes place in the peoples themselves, especially by means of education. It is, in fact, the education of youth in unjustifiable prejudices which engenders the false standpoint on which publicists and Parliamentary orators in turn take their stand and deliver opinions which it is evident they have learnt at school."

Hardly a day passed in the week whose papers are before us, in which the *Times* did not deal editorially with this important topic. In its issue of the 9th it says :—

> The decision of China in the case of the Newchwang concession will demonstrate to what extent this assurance has been successful. If the Tsungli Yamên have the courage to adhere to the course which they deliberately and of their free will chose, and if the Emperor confirms the preliminary concession, a check will at last have been given to M. Pavloff's ostentatious attacks upon the policy of the open door and upon our rights under the Treaty of Tientsin. If, on the other hand, the concession to the British bank is cancelled and the right to build the line is given to the Russo-Chinese Bank, that policy will have received a fresh and flagrant rebuff and those rights will have been openly violated. If China were to appeal to us and to show that she had been "bullied or driven," though the consequences might be of extreme gravity, at least we should have a clear issue. But should she elect to yield to the representations of M. Pavloff—as our well-informed Peking correspondent hints that she may yield—she may, of course, affect to do so quite voluntarily. She may try to save her face by passing over as lightly as possible the "bullying or driving" which will really have determined her course. What is to be our action in such a case? Are we to submit with some witticisms about the unprofitableness of Chinese railways or a sententious reference to the maxim, *volenti non fit injuria?* Or are we to own in the presence of such evidence that the open door is shut in our faces, and to recognise that if we mean to retain our hold on Chinese markets actual and prospective we must do it by some other way? It would be a satisfaction to the nation to have some enlightenment on this point before Parliament is prorogued. What that way may be is another matter. Any repudiation of the Newchwang concession would at least make it clear that the game of trying to overcome Russian influence by counter-pressure at Peking is up. We must shape our course accordingly. An understanding with Russia on reasonable grounds

> may not be impracticable, though so far, at least, there are no official documents to show that she is in any way prepared to meet us even half way. Still, if an arrangement were practicable it would be hailed with satisfaction by the country, as was the agreement we came to with the same Power on the frontier of India. But, at all events, if by repudiating her engagements China should prove that she is unable or unwilling to observe the Treaty of Tientsin, she can no longer expect us to pay much regard to her wishes. We must secure our own interests by our own action in that portion of her dominions in which, as we have been taught, those interests are vital to us.

The *Times* is very decided in the advice it gives the Government on the 10th of August. It says, referring to the assurance that England would back up China in certain cases against Russian aggression :—

> The Chinese Government, with its usual politeness, expressed gratitude for the promise of British support in case of threats by other Powers on account of British enterprises. But it added that no threat of aggression had been made. After what we have learned of M. Pavloff's methods, this is highly significant. It means that China does not intend to complain to us when she is compelled to withhold concessions by Russian arguments, and therefore that the occasion for making good the promises given through Sir Claude MacDonald is not likely to arise. China, in other words, seems to think that Russia is serious and that we are not.
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> Apparently she compares us also with Germany, and equally to our disadvantge. Mr. Provand was inconveniently inquisitive last night about the concession for a railway from Tientsin to Chinkiang. Mr. Curzon, in reply, read one of the familiar official disclaimers which alter nothing. Herr von Bülow says it is quite wrong to say that Germany raised objections to this railway. All she did was to intimate that if such a railway is constructed the work and supplies connected therewith must be offered in the first instance to German firms. In other words, we may get a concession, but it is the German, not the British, capitalist who is to derive the benefit from it. Herr von Bülow, who is evidently a humourist of no mean quality, blandly adds that the German Government, true to their principles, have not claimed any exclusive privileges from China. They are content with preferential rights, and are quite willing to leave the door open after they have secured everything worth taking inside. Yet Mr. Curzon thinks that the difference between exclusive and preferential rights is substantial. As for the Peking-Hankow Railway, Mr. Curzon is still ignorant of the terms of the concession, but Sir Claude MacDonald has instructions to protest against preferential treatment for subjects of other Powers. This railway runs right into the district in which we are peculiarly interested. Were any other Power in our place, it would not only resist the giving of preferential rights to others, but would demand such rights for itself. That line of conduct would be understood by China and respected by other people. But neither China nor other Powers understand or respect the passive attitude which has been dignified with the name of the policy of the open door.

On the 11th the *Times* says :—

> We cannot see in yesterday's debate much ground for the expectation that Ministers will act with decision in the Far East. Even the famous assurance of support to China, which was made public with so much ostentation last week, made no figure in Mr. Balfour's speech. The declaration of China that she has no intention of parting with her Yangtze provinces was not once more paraded as a triumph of the Foreign Office. We hear again a great deal about the "open door" and the bold assurance that Ministers have kept it open and will do so at any cost in the future. But side by side with these statements, which do not bring to the public the consolation they gave six months ago, we have a series of explanations and interpretations of the meaning of that convenient phrase. The nation, it seems were wrong when they thought it signified that there were to be no parts of China where British subjects should not be free to compete on equal terms with all other foreigners. It does not mean that the Government will maintain for their country-men that "equality of opportunity and treatment" which Mr. Curzon described as "the principal bases of our relations with China." It merely means that Germany, and by parity of reasoning other Powers with spheres of influence in China, are not to be at liberty to exclude British trade by any differential treatment which would be an open and flagrant violation of the Treaty of Tientsin. Indirectly they are to be free to attain that end by devices of which they are masters. They may not claim for themselves the exclusive right to concessions within their own preserves, but they may claim preferential concessions, which are quite as effective, to shuting out.

In its issue of the 13th ult. the *Times* deals with the Queen's speech and says :—

> At the same moment there comes the news, from our Peking correspondent (to whom the *Temps* is unexpectedly paying all manner of gratifying and well-deserved compliments) that the Imperial decree ratifying the Hankow Railway contract was issued yesterday. This was done in the teeth of direct assurances from the Tsungli Yamên that the decree would not be issued until after further conferences with Sir Claude Macdonald. China, in a word, is unchanged, and is no more to be trusted than of old. She did exactly the same three years ago, when, in June, 1895, she signed a convention with France. Sir Nicholas O'Conor the British Minister, lodged a protest on the ground that it flagrantly violated the Burma convention with England, then scarcely more than a year old; the Chinese officials promised to consider and report; and promptly went into the next room and signed the convention. The present British Minister is probably well aware of this bit of recent history, but he can do nothing unless he is supported from home. When we see this kind thing happening almost day after day, how small the achievements at Weihaiwei and Kowloon, which the Queen's Speech parades, appear, and what reliance can be placed upon the promises of support to "every legitimate commercial enterprise in China" which Mr. Balfour gave yesterday in the last moments of the Session ?

It is not only in China, however, that Russia is steadily working to counteract our influence. She has been trying to get a port on the Malay Peninsula. The *Globe* of the 11th ult. says :—

> Not for the first time, the Russian Government is endeavouring to obtain a footing on the Siamese coast. Shortly after the termination of the Chino-Japanese war, St. Petersburg addressed overtures to Bangkok, for the cession of an island in the Gulf of Siam. But King Chulalonkorn did not then relish the idea and the project was put aside until he visited St. Petersburg during his European tour. What happened then can only be surmised from the subsequent appointment of a Russian Minister Plenipotentiary at Bangkok, and from the strong personal friendship which has uninterruptedly subsisted between the Czar and the King, ever since the former visited the Far East when Heir Apparent. It may be pretty safely conjectured, at all events, that the rendition of some Siamese port to Russia was talked about between host and guest, and the King would be restrained by the politeness for which he is famous, if by no other reason, from affronting his Imperial friend by flat refusal. It does not take us by surprise, therefore, to learn that the Russian Minister at Bangkok has just returned to the subject; there being no Russian subjects or interests in the whole of Siam, his appointment must have had a purely political object. But it is matter for astonishment that he should have invited the King to hand over some harbour in the Siamese portion of the Malay Peninsula. By the Anglo-French agreement of January, 1896, Siamese Malaya was expressly included in the British sphere of influence, and is consequently closed politically to all other Foreign Powers. If, therefore, the King were to cede a Malayan port to Russia—happily, there is little chance of that—England would have to take instant action, possibly by undiplomatic methods. That the Czar is in earnest in endeavouring to impress the Siamese Court with the greatness and power of Russia requires no further proof than the splendid entertainment lately given by his representative at Bangkok. Immediately after our Minister, Mr. Greville, had celebrated the Queen's Birthday by a ball at the British Legation the Russian Envoy utterly eclipsed that gaiety by an entertainment of such a costly character that the King and Royal Princes who were present were astonished at the enormous outlay.

The following is the Money Market note in the *Economist* of the 13th ult.:—

> No new feature of any kind has presented itself in the money market during the past week. At this time of the year there is always some temporary displacement of funds, owing to the railway dividend payments, but the market is so oversupplied with credits that this has had no visible effect, and as there are still no signs of any demand for gold for the United States, discount rates keep dragging, and it is with difficulty that the quotation for best three months' bills is maintained at 1⅝ per cent. There is an idea that now that the terms of peace with Spain are practically arranged, there will be a great outburst of industrial and commercial activity in the States, which will increase the demand for and enhance the value of money there. If that were so, then, of course, there would be a greater probability of gold being taken hence. But the influence of the war in restricting trade has been so slight, that it is not at all clear why its conclusion should have so great an effect, especially as business in the States will not continue to be stimulated as it has been during the past twelve months by a strong European demand for the cereal crops at high prices.

The first leading article in the *Economist* of the 6th ult. is headed "Foreign Affairs," and begins with some considerations on Bismarck and his work. "A thorough disciple of Machiavelli, Bismarck held that any means justified the end he had in view."—The writer evidently intended to say that the end Bismarck had in view justified any means.—History will judge with some severity the means he used to bring about the War of 1870, and will condemn still more severely "his deliberate attempt in 1875 to provoke France again to a struggle intended to result in her crushing defeat and annihilation as a European Power. That step was frustrated by the Russian Emperor." In concluding his remarks on Bismarck the *Economist* says: "Whoever believes that militarism, protectionism, despotism, bureaucracy, are good and inevitable things will believe in the beneficence and permanence of Prince Bismarck's work." As to the Peace, the *Economist* doubts if the prospect of having to annex the Philippines is pleasant for the United States; and then it goes on to the China Question, and says :—

> We have said all along that Lord Salisbury was weak and that his acts were frequently at variance with the warlike utterances in which some of his colleagues indulged, and which ought to have been kept for private consumption. At the same time we have also said that the policy of Lord Salisbury under conditions of great difficulty seemed to us to be in the main wise and prudent. We doubt if any actual substantial interest has been lost, and we are very sure that much trouble has been averted. One cause of the peculiar difficulties that are constantly arising, and that are exaggerated by an alarmist Press on the watch for a new sensation, lies in the wholly different methods of Russian and British diplomacy. The Muscovite is half Oriental, and that side of his nature presents insoluble problems to the straightforward, blundering nature of John Bull. Our agents only press forward claims as directed seriously by the home Government. The Russian agent is a fluid, subtle person, ready for any new move, and who, if he has gone beyond the bounds of prudence, is instantly reprimanded, or his actions are completely disavowed from St. Petersburg, just as though no instructions had ever been sent to him. This is, of course, one important reason of Russian success in Asia; they understand the Asiatic and he understands them. Russia, however, has gone far in her monopolist policy, perhaps

further than she intended, and assuming that Lord Salisbury meant what he said when he declared that commercial liberty must be respected at all costs, it remains to be seen whether an understanding can be arrived at by which legitimate Russian ambitions should be reconciled with substantial liberty of trade and enterprise. The situation is critical, but it will not be made better by shrieking or sensationalism.

The first leading article in the *Economist* of the 13th ult. is head "The Policy of Flabbiness," and we are glad to see the *Economist* at last adopting our view of Lord Salisbury's policy. In reference to Lord Salisbury's treatment of the Far Eastern Situation, it says :—

> Now, what the average man sees is quite clear. He sees, on the one hand, that Russia is getting her way, despite all the talk raised ; and yet he sees, on the other hand, that members of our own Government have frequently threatened Russia in public with dire pains and penalties if she persists in the very thing she is doing with impunity. Those who see this clearly cannot be blamed if they deduce the inference that our Government occupies a wholly false position, that it has no consistent line of policy, that it speaks with two voices—that, in short, it exhibits signs of deplorable inconsistency and weakness. Mr. Chamberlain is allowed to compare the Russian Government to the devil. Mr Goschen is allowed to appeal to the House of Commons for an enormous supplementary naval estimate on purpose to meet the designs of Russia, and to be ready to checkmate them. Such speeches would have meant almost instant war at one time. But Lord Salisbury, in his wearied, jaded way, declares that there is nothing particular amiss, and Mr Balfour, with his usual analytic clearness, follows in the line of Lord Salisbury. So we shall go on until Mr Chamberlain makes another violent attack on Russia, and Lord Salisbury deals us out another soporific, and we shall still be asking the same question, which ought to have been answered long ago —What is the policy of the Government? Is it the policy of mere brag to conceal a diplomatic defeat? Is it the policy of the "Open Door," as stated by the Chancellor of the Exchequer? Is it the policy of "Spheres of Influence," quite irreconcilable with the previous policy? Or is there really no policy at all, and are the Ministers of Great Britain merely living from hand-to-mouth, and waiting for what may turn up?

The conclusion of the article is :—

> We do feel the weakness and inconsistency of the Government's position in declaring for an "open door," and yet, at the same time, in apparently permitting Russia to veto the appointment of any Englishman or the concession of contracts to any English firm in the Yangtze district. For this is neither the "open door" policy nor the "sphere of influence" policy, nor, so far as we can see, any positive policy whatever; and it is the most abject confession of failure when coming after the "wild and whirling words" of Mr Chamberlain and the outspoken provocation of Mr. Goschen.
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> What we ask for is not a vigorous or spirited, but a plain and straightforward policy that can be explained with candour and adhered to with consistency. We want to know the main facts, we want to know what it is exactly that the Government conceives it must and will, at all hazards, protect in China. We want to know what the real British interests in China are held to be, and we want an assurance given by the Government to the country and to foreign nations that having defined those interests, they will be protected against any assault. We do not ask for or desire peculiar advantages in China, and we think that the acquisition of Chinese territory would be alike impolitic and unjust. We are not of those who think that one's gain is necessarily another's loss, and we can see that the rule of Russia makes vastly more for future British trade than does the rule of China. All we ask for, in short, is candour and publicity ; what we desire to do away with is the combination of blustering speech with timid action, which has already lowered not a little the esteem in which we are held the world over. We think it strange that we, with a constitutional and representative Government, should actually know no more of the designs of that Government than do the people of Russia with avowedly absolutist institutions, and we think, therefore, it is high time that this anomalous condition of things should be brought to an end.

In a Business Note, the *Economist* congratulates the Associated Chambers of Commerce on sending out a special agent to China, and while somewhat surprised at the selection of Lord Charles Beresford, says that he is "a man of distinction, character, energy, and ability." A private letter dated London the 12th ult., from an old resident who has been giving Lord Charles some information about affairs in China, says: "Lord Charles goes out *entirely on his own bat* for the Recess, absolutely *unconnected with Government*, to try what he can do for British interests and to report."

The leading article in the *Investors' Review* is a short one, entitled "The China Puzzle." Mr. Wilson cannot make head or tail of it. "Is Sir Claude Macdonald playing his cards well?" But who could play well with a dealer who makes so many misdeals as Lord Salisbury? Then Mr. Wilson says: "Who is 'bossing' this diplomatic business we should like to know? It is not well managed. There is far too much fuss and objurgation, far too many attitudes of defiance are struck, and too many pledges given and shirked." Meanwhile, M. Pavloff knocks the bottom out of British concessions, "and all Sir Claude Macdonald's stamping and fuming, demanding and protesting, go for nothing," We are inclined to believe that the papers are right which say that Curzon has taken the Indian Viceroyalty because he is sick of Lord Salisbury's flabbiness, and is too loyal to throw over his chief. Among the Economic and Financial Notes is the following, headed "A Gold Currency for India":—

> It is rumoured that the Simla Government is to establish this by proclamation as soon as Parliament is out of the way. We can quite believe it, and the step follows logically upon previous ineptitudes of the same kind. On the whole, we shall be glad, too, if the Gordian knot is attempted to be cut in this way, because the attempt will bring India's currency and debt troubles the sooner to a head. Thus India may be served through excess of folly on the part of its rulers, for only by a drastic financial crisis can the path be cleared for those reforms essential to the stability of our dominion. When the export trade of India decays and her inability to sustain the excessive load of debt laid upon her becomes patent to the whole world, then the serene bureaucrat will be pulled off his perch and renovation become possible, then will the fighting man cease to make useless wars, because there will be no money to pay for powder with.

There is undoubted interest in the following notes from the *Saturday Review*:

> Every now and then things come out in the House of Commons in a way which leaves them unintelligible to the general reader. Mr. Robson, for instance, on Wednesday night made a statement which neither the *Times* nor any other paper explains, and which is nevertheless full of interest. Mr. Robson is reported in the *Times* to have said: "For nearly a fortnight the dispatch in reference to Talienwan was at the Foreign Office, all England waiting to know the contents, there being something approaching to a state of panic in the public mind. Then Ministers gave totally different accounts of the dispatch, indicating that it had not been the subject of a short conversation, which would have prevented them from making mistakes on different lines, if it did not secure them against being unanimously wrong in their interpretation." Now "what does this mean?" the general reader would ask, rubbing his eyes.
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> Mr. Robson simply meant that a story is going about in political circles in reference to this Talienwan dispatch which we think should be widely known. The story is to this effect. Our Ambassador in China telegraphed, it appears, that if our Government guaranteed the loan to China, the Chinese Government would cede us Talienwan, but our Ambassador added that no time must be lost or the negotiations would get out and Russia would spoil our chance. This so-called Talienwan dispatch from our Ambassador was discussed in the Cabinet. Lord Salisbury it seems for once was in favour of doing what our Ambassador suggested and doing it without loss of time. Mr. Chamberlain too backed up the Prime Minister, but Sir Michael Hicks-Beach objected, "there was no such need of haste," he declared, "he would like to consider the dispatch." He took the dispatch away with him; went down into the country with it, indeed, and so Russia got Talienwan and our loan was refused, and Lord Salisbury had to go about blackening his own face by declaring that we had never wanted Talienwan and so forth and so forth. We give the story for what it is worth, but we believe in its substantial truth, and a contradiction from Sir Michael Hicks-Beach will have to be extremely explicit before we shall take the trouble even to consider it.

In its first leading article, headed "Exit Mr. George Curzon," the *Saturday* denies altogether that Mr. Curzon is going to India because he cannot stand Lord Salisbury's shilly-shallying in the Far East. Mr. Curzon, the *Saturday* says, is just as much responsible for the policy of "bullying-and-backing-down" as his chief : he "is not leaving the House of Commons because he finds it impossible to support Lord Salisbury's policy, for that policy or want of policy was as much his own as it was his chief's, but simply because he has sense enough to see that the policy has turned out very badly, and he therefore wishes to avoid the odium of a discredited *régime*." The next article is headed "The 'Open Door' Fiction," and goes to show that to go on advocating the Open Door in China is useless. It says :—

> As Sir Charles Dilke and Sir William Harcourt proved, Germany has put forward claims for the construction of railways within the province of Shantung, which are avowedly preferential claims and which in fact are exclusive claims. Manchuria is no longer open to British commerce as it was; Port Arthur and Talienwan are not, and are not intended to become, free commercial ports. The point of the whole matter is that this policy of the "open door" is a mere British fiction, and that the policy of "spheres of influence" already holds the field. The Russians have Manchuria; the Germans have Shantung and the French will seize a couple of the provinces that border on their possessions. Nothing remains for us but to take the lion's share of the spoil by declaring that the whole valley of the Yangtzekiang is within our sphere of influence, and that if any nation wants a railway the work and supplies connected with that railway must, to adopt the words of the German Foreign Office minute, "be first offered to English industry and to English trade." To that policy Lord Salisbury will have to come. He has already delayed too long for his own reputation. If he delays much longer he will see that a majority of even one hundred and fifty can melt away very quickly in a modern Parliament.

We take the following note from the *Spectator* of the 5th ult.:—

> We have dealt with Prince Bismarck's chief characteristics elsewhere, and will only say here that though the man was often unscrupulous and tyrannical in his conduct, there was nothing base in him. He never did a wrongful act for petty or personal motives, but only in order, as he thought, to serve his country. He would not have said that he could not love the Fatherland so much, loved he not honour more, but rather that there was absolutely nothing he would not do to make the Fatherland great and glorious. Hence the Ems telegram which he doctored in order to bring on the Franco-Prussian War, and the Benedetti Treaty. He was a great diplomatist and at the same time a man of iron will, dauntless courage, and unconquerable spirit, but he cannot be called a great statesman. He forgot, or never knew, that it is useless to raise a great State unless its foundations are firm, and that no State has firm foundations when individual liberty is

ignored and set at naught. He knew the uses of obedience, but not of freedom; and instead of trying to endow United Germany with this last best gift he brutally trampled out the little the German people possessed before they became united. Hence Germany has much to go through before she can feel that she is in truth a State founded to endure. Admirers of Bismarck and his methods will of course, laugh at such predictions; but let us await the end, and watch the Empire when tested by defeat or by a great wave of industrial and agricultural depression. Then men will learn how grossly Bismarck erred in the art of government. His foreign policy was masterly, but States do not live by foreign policy alone.

The first leading article in the *Spectator* is headed "Lord Salisbury and the Chinese Question," and the writer, while on the whole defending Lord Salisbury, points out that he has made the mistake of trying to run at the same time the Open Door policy and the Spheres of Influence policy. But, the *Spectator* says:—

> We come last to our only serious practical difference with Lord Salisbury. In our opinion, having in fact fallen back, and rightly and necessarily fallen back, on the sphere-of-interests policy, he should have taken some more clear and effective measures for "pegging out" our claims in the Yangtze, and making it clear to all the world that this vast valley is secured to us. We do not, of course, desire that he should forbid a single foreign railway. Rather we would have him welcome them; but we would let all the Powers clearly understand that the railways laid in our reserve would in the end be under our control. At the same time, Lord Salisbury should in our opinion, take means, by surveying and exploring parties, by the appointment of extra Consuls, and by other such methods, to make our special and peculiar position quite clear to the natives. Again, he should make it plain that our connection with China *viâ* Burma, and also *viâ* Tibet, is to be maintained. Why should not an expedition starting from, say, Darjeeling go through Thibet to the upper waters of the Yangtze, and so down to the sea, inquiring *en route* whether a railway that way would be so impossible as Lord Salisbury says a railway is *viâ* Burma? That is, in our opinion, one of the notice-boards which Lord Salisbury ought at once to affix to the walls of the Yangtze Valley. But very possibly Lord Salisbury has already prepared something of the kind, only better, and he will be merely amused at our amateur suggestions. At any rate, on the main issue we have, as we have said above, perfect confidence in Lord Salisbury. We are convinced that he knows what is wanted, and how much we can get, and we are content to leave the getting of it in his hands,—certain that, even if he makes mistakes, they will be less than the mistakes of any other conceivable Foreign Minister. We have only one word more to say. We implore Lord Salisbury to abide by his own deliberate judgment, and not to pay too much attention to that transient and embarrassing phantom, public opinion. After all, what is public opinion? As often as not, the will of the minority rather than of the majority,—a mere mass of "newspaper paragraphs and prejudice" rather than the authentic voice of a united nation.

In its article headed "Europe after the War," the *Spectator* shows that Spain has passed permanently into the hands of France, and "America and England have discovered at last that they are one kin, and that their interests are in common. . . These are great changes in themselves." In its article on "The Future of Liberalism," the *Spectator* concludes that "Liberal principles are now, in their main outlines, though not in all their inferential deductions, the common possession of both parties." There is a critical article on Bismarck, and an interesting one on the situation in Italy.

The *Critic* of the 6th ult. has a very spirited drawing of Bismarck being received on the steps of Walhalla by his old master Kaiser William I. There is nothing remarkable in the *Westminster Budget*, but the *St. James's* has a very pleasing photographic likeness of Mr. Curzon, and a number of yachting pictures. The leading article of the *World* is on Prince Bismarck. Mr. Labouchere is as anti-Chamberlain and anti-jingo as ever. Sambourne's cartoon "*Noblesse Oblige*" in *Punch* is severe, but well-merited. Tenniel's is a formal and yet pathetic drawing of the bearing of Bismarck to his grave. Its stiffness is not inappropriate to the subject, but its effectiveness would have been greatly enhanced by the addition of a human background.

Outposts.

CHUNGKING.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

DEATH OF THE TARTAR-GENERAL.

The latest and perhaps the most startling piece of news to hand in this city is the death at Chêngtu of the Tartar Governor-General which occurred a few days ago. It is broadly stated by those who should know that his death is due to other than natural causes. In any case his demise coincides with French official pressure. Very properly the French authorities had warned H.E. that the ultimate responsibility for the recent troubles in this neighbourhood would rest upon his shoulders and the warning, strengthened as it doubtless was by urgent orders from the Tsungli Yamên, took effect. H.E. is reported to have been a man of shallow attainments, and quite incompetent to grasp or deal with matters requiring intelligent handling or prompt dispatch. It is alleged that our local Taotai, who wires for instructions in connection with the now famous

YÜ MAN-TZE CASE,

ailed on more than one occasion to obtain any reply whatever, although possibly H.E.'s silence may in this instance have been due as much to evil counsel on the part of others as to his own incapacity or unwillingness to "instruct" in the affair. Your readers will not forget that ex-Taotai Lai has been a resident very much in evidence at the capital—in high favour too with the conservative classes and well-known to be bitterly hostile to foreign interests. Meanwhile Père Fleury is still in bondage, and to make the unfortunate man's capivity yet more "sweet" and bitter, Yü Man-tze has removed him to a coal mine where he now is. The fear is that he will now speedily die even if he is not killed by violence. Yü's argument now would appear to be simply this: "Guarantee my life and the captive will be set at liberty." But the French authorities are not likely to be seduced away from pursuing their present object by an appeal of that kind. What their object is they themselves know best, but it is clear that the punishment of Yü the brigand does not comprehend the whole of their policy. China has acted the foolish part so long, it is not surprising to find that her evil day has come upon her. It is too late for her to make full atonement for her numerous acts of deceit and treachery, but it may not be altogether impossible for her, with friendly aid, to commence a career of repentance and fresh endeavour which will happily lead the whole Empire into healthier and happier experiences.

MUCH GOOD

is sure to flow from the changes recently introduced into the metropolitan and provincial examinations. Already there is visible in this district a strong desire on the part of the student classes to acquire a knowledge of "Western subjects," and in our English Mission about sixty men have been enrolled as paying boarders, all of whom are now devoting their energies to the study of arithmetic, Euclid, geography, English, etc., with the view of preparing themselves for future examination. H.B.M.'s Consul, Mr. Litton, with his usual accurate appreciation of the signs of the time, has called the attention of British missionaries to the great need of the hour, and in response to his appeal a plan is being prepared by which it may become possible for certain missionaries in their private capacity to deliver a course of extra-mural lectures on general topics to men who are anxious to study, and who are willing to pay for being taught. In the opinion of some it would have been a better method for the various Missions to have grappled with the situation each in its own way, but this plan does not seem practicable at present, save perhaps in one instance where a vigorous and promising effort is being made to do someting practical and effective. The desire for a Western education is spreading on every hand, and the time has arrived for all who are interested in the welfare of China to do what they can, in a prudent and benevolent spirit, to help her people to work out their own salvation from the bondage of their hurtful traditions.

MEMORIAL TO LORD SALISBURY.

I am requested to forward you a copy of a memorial addressed to Lord Salisbury upon the subject of the survey of the Upper River, and at the same time to solicit your powerful assistance in the way of securing signatures to it. The importance of having the western reaches of the river accurately surveyed will be patent to every merchant in Shanghai, and if the task were undertaken by competent British officers the result would be a boon and a blessing to everybody concerned in the future trade and prosperity of West China.

24th August.

The following is the memorial referred to:—

To the

MARQUIS OF SALISBURY, K.G.,
Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State
for Foreign Affairs, etc., etc., etc.

We, the undersigned, British and American subjects, resident in West China and valley of Yangtze River respectfully beg to represent to your Lordship the vexatious delays in communication between West China and Lower Yangtze River.

These constitute not only a hindrance to trade, but a danger to the lives and properties of missionaries and others resident in the interior, on account of the difficulty of affording proper protection against rioters. These inconveniences are primarily due to absence of regular steam communication between the Lower River and Chungking.

It was formerly considered impossible for steamers to ascend the rapids above Ichang, but in the spring of this year, Mr. A. J. Little, a British subject, succeeded in bringing a small launch up the rapids, and to Chungking.

His experience has proved the navigability of the Upper River by steam, but it has also shown the necessity of a careful survey of the river from Ichang upwards before steam communication can become regular and profitable.

Under these circumstances, we venture to submit for your Lordship's consideration, the advisability in the interest of British residents, and British trade in West China, of instituting such a survey by naval experts at an early date.

We have the honour to be, with great respect,
Your Lordship's most obedient servants.
Chungking, 25th August, 1898.

CLARKE'S WORLD-FAMED BLOOD MIXTURE.—"The most searching Blood Cleanser that science and medical skill have brought to light." Sufferers from Scrofula, Scurvy, Eczema, Bad Legs, Skin and Blood Diseases, Pimples, and Sores of any kind are solicited to give it a trial to test its value. Thousands of wonderful cures have been effected by it. Sold everywhere at 2s. 9d. per bottle. Beware of worthless imitations and substitutes.

NOTES FROM THE SOUTH.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THE WEEK AND THE WEATHER.

There is no news of interest to record locally, things generally being dull, and money tight.

The weather has been uniformly fine, bright, and very hot. I expect to hear very shortly that a depression exists off the coast of Luzon. So far, we have been fortunate; the various typhoons have left this Colony undamaged, and, so far as the weather is concerned, the only thing we can reasonably deplore is the shortage of the rainfall, which is still less than 50 inches.

AMUSEMENTS.

The A. D. C. are giving signs of vitality. I hear they have determined to produce in the forthcoming season the pantomime of *The Yellow Dwarf*, and already the parts have been allotted. The corps have also agreed to be responsible for a moiety of the cost of the alterations now being effected in the Theatre Royal, which will add greatly to the accommodation in the dress circle.

OUTDOOR SPORTS.

These are being looked forward to with much eagerness and cricketers are now to be seen nightly at the nets. Meantime as a forerunner, the Aquatic Sports, annually held under the auspices of the Victoria Recreation Club, were held on the 6th, 7th, and 9th inst., when there were some well contested events, before a large attendance of spectators.

OFFICIAL CHANGES.

Of these some have been made and some are impending. Mr. A. W. Brewin, Acting Registrar-General, has gone to Japan on three months' leave of absence, and Mr. J. Dyer Ball, Interpreter of the Supreme Court, who has just returned from England, has been appointed Acting Registrar-General. The Hon. W. M. Goodman, Attorney-General, will shortly proceed home on six months' leave, and Mr. H. E. Pollock will be made his *locum tenens*, though Mr. Norton Kyshe, the Registrar of the Supreme Court, has a first claim to the acting appointment. I believe, however, Mr. Kyshe is himself a candidate for early leave.

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL.

This large but not particularly handsome edifice, opened some nine years ago, was not completed and consequently lacks somewhat of its proportions. It is intended to complete the original plan almost immediately, by building the eastern tower, which will be surmounted by a rather lofty spire. The central tower, at present squat and ugly with a plain roof, is to be carried a good deal higher with corner turrets, but it is intended to surmount this with a conical roof, which will greatly detract from its architectural finish, and give it a rather tawdry appearance. The Fathers would do well to lay a flat concrete or cement roof and the tower would then be imposing.

PROPOSED CREMATORIUM.

At the meeting of the Sanitary Board, held on the 8th inst., it was resolved to recommend the Government to erect a small crematorium for the purpose of burning the bodies of cattle that have died of infectious diseases, and also, on a separate site, a small public crematorium for the use of such sections of the public as may wish to avail themselves of it. It would be a good thing if all bodies could be cremated, as the cemeteries are becoming crowded. It will soon be necessary to find a site for a cemetery on a neighbouring island.

NAVAL NEWS.

There has again been some change in the aspect of the man-of-war anchorage, there having been more movements of warships than usual at this time of year. The American cruisers *Olympia* and *Raleigh* left here for Manila on the 3rd and the *Concord* on the 5th. The British cruiser *Powerful* followed them on the 7th inst. The American cruiser *Boston* arrived here on the 4th inst. from Manila, and the *Baltimore* yesterday. Both have gone into dock at Kowloon. The German cruiser *Kaiserin Augusta* arrived here on the 5th from Manila, and the Chinese cruiser *Haishêng* (the third of the new vessels being built in Germany) arrived here on the 5th from Colombo, and left the next day for Shanghai. The British storeship *Humber* arrived here on the 7th from Shanghai.

The ironclad *Barfleur* is gradually, but very slowly, assuming another colour, being at present a study in vermilion with patches of black. She has not yet recommissioned, and the *Blenheim* remains here awaiting orders.

TIGERS NEAR CANTON.

Every one knows that tigers are common enough in Kuangtung, but it is not often we hear of them in the vicinity of a populous place like Canton. Two tiger cubs were, however, seen near the White Cloud Mountain the other day and one was killed by some villagers. It weighed between twenty and thirty catties. The other cub carried away a small pig from the village during the night. No doubt his temerity will bring him to ultimate grief, for the Chinese love roast pig.

SHOCKING FATALITY ON THE CANTON RIVER.

One of those frightful accidents which result from the peculiar construction of the passage boats on the Canton River took place on the 1st instant. A boat crowded to its utmost capacity left a place called Taifauhsung on the East River, and, although so crowded that it was not safe to sneeze, arrived safely until the main stream was reached, when a sudden squall struck the boat, and she heeled over at once. All those shut in the coffin-like body of the craft were drowned, while a few passengers who were crowded on the top got a chance of a swim for it and struck out for the shore or were picked up. The following day a Canton Benevolent Society sent a boat up, and the bodies were recovered and laid out in long lines on the river bank, photographed for identification, and then placed in coffins and taken to Canton.

THE REBELLION IN HAINAN.

The rising is still unrepressed. At last reports the situation at Nodoa was critical, the Imperialists being only just able to hold their own, and not strong enough to assume the offensive. On the 14th ult. the insurgents, about 1,000 strong, made an attack upon Commandant Hong at Kingchow, when they were driven back with considerable loss. But the worthy Commandant has only about one hundred men, and he is anxiously looking for reinforcements, as he knows that his weakness invites attack, and the delay is emboldening the rebels.

THE REBELLION IN KUANGSI.

If any credit could be given to the Chinese official reports, the insurrection in Kuangsi has practically been stamped out, but according to reports from outside sources the struggle is still going on and it may possibly be found that the accounts of the recent Imperialist victories were on a par with those announced over the Japanese troops, which invariably turned out to be bad lickings. The native papers at Canton are subjected to a rigorous censorship, so any real news is difficult to obtain.

Hongkong, 10th September.

MANILA.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

The chief topic of discussion in Manila yesterday and to-day has been the report that Germany had purchased the large island of Palawan and all or part of the Sulu group from Spain, paying a price for that opportunity to get at the territorial pie which is acceptable to both Spain and Germany. As this story was also current in Hongkong and may be of interest to your readers I am able to state that the German Consul here, and the Captain of the *Kaiserin Augusta*, on her leaving yesterday for Hongkong, emphatically denied the story. The German Consul declared that it could not be true. He claimed that he knew nothing of it. The Captain was no less earnest in his denials. If any other interpretation than the good faith of these gentlemen is to be given to their statements it might be suggested that they protested too much, but I have no reason to impute other than honourable motives to the Consul and Captain. While I am not personally acquainted with them, I hear from excellent authority that they did not hesitate to deny plainly that Germany had Palawan or the Sulus. The Captain even went so far as to assert that Germany did not want Palawan—at least if his recommendation was accepted his country would not have the island. Here again it might be urged that it was diplomatic to speak against the island as helping to throw the United States and England off their guard at a critical time.

There are also both theoretical and practical reasons why this alarming report will probably lack accurate confirmation. Theoretically it is against the tenets of international law for one power to buy or take land from another when the latter is at war with a third, or when the full negotiations which may involve the ownership of such land are not concluded. In other terms Germany has no right to buy and Spain no right to sell one foot of the Philippines or the outlying islands until all claims of the United States are settled. In one sense the United States has a first lien or mortgage on all of Spain's possessions until the peace treaty is signed and its conditions filled. Practically, the United States would not allow Spain to sell or Germany to buy Palawan and the Sulus until the United States have no further claim on Spain's holdings, and would resist by force, if necessary, any attempt of Germany to occupy such islands without permission; but as strong as is this reason, there is another of almost equal strength. England cannot consent to German occupation of Palawan and the Sulus, because first, Germany would be in a position of great strength to control England's approach to Australia from China and Hongkong, and second, to hold a strategic post of invaluable importance in the south China Sea, thus interposing herself in a route which England wishes kept clear between Singapore and Hongkong. No, Germany must not have them.

I have reason to believe that certain parties are selling arms to the natives which the latter may use to fight the Americans later on; and the most remarkable feature of this trade is that Americans are sending down these arms from Hongkong and China. Several men who are known to be engaged in this kind of doubtful work have just turned up in Manila and nobody seems to know just how they got down here. It would not be very far away from the truth if I said that a vessel has put into an outside port where she can unload the rifles, ammunition, and other guns without being discovered by the American authorities. From this landing-point these gentlemen made their way into Manila, where they will watch the situation with a view to protecting their operations and making arrangements to bring more arms. The United

States authorities here and at other places will do well to keep their eyes open with extreme vigilance if they would prevent the natives from being equipped with sufficient weapons to carry on a protracted and severe guerilla warfare against either the United States or any other Power that might be willed an interest in the Philippines. Arms will be brought surreptitiously into these islands in great numbers if the movement is not stopped at once.

Aguinaldo is taking advantage of the present period of "doing nothing," until the Paris Conference reaches its conclusions, to prepare for emergencies. I would not accuse him of pursuing an unfair course, because I understand that he has no regular agreement with General Otis; but his plans to buy large quantities of arms, as just described above, show that he is not sleeping. It may be impossible to prevent the insurgents from buying them if they get a chance, but it is possible to stop Americans, Englishmen, and Germans, who are anxious to make a dollar in any way open to them, from importing arms into the Philippines or that portion controlled by the United States. In short it must be stopped or trouble will result greater than now anticipated. If the warning of this letter leads to the desired result, I shall feel that the columns of this paper have materially assisted foreign interests in the Philippines. If these natives once become armed in great numbers foreigners will not be safe in the interior and petty rebellions and outrages will prevail from one end of Luzon to the other. I do not wish to hurt the business of any firm engaged in legitimate trade, but I am confident that most men will agree with me that selling arms at the present time to the insurgents is certainly not legitimate.

By reference to section 360 under the head of *Articles Prohibited* of the *Customs Tariff and Regulations for the Philippine Islands* issued by the War Department at Washington, it will be seen that the importation of arms is plainly against the law, for it says: "Arms of war, projectiles, and other ammunition, except with special consent of the military authorities, are prohibited." While there is not yet absolute authority that arms are being smuggled into Luzon, the indications are so strong that the American authorities will make no mistake in watching for them.

By the phrase "doing nothing" used above in referring to the present situation I mean rather a suspension of any active movement on the part of either Americans or natives, to take further steps for the conquest of Luzon. The *status quo* can be expected to last at least one month or one month and a-half. During that time there will be little or no change in the administration of the local government. That is, things will go on as they are now going except that, as time passes, the wheels of government will run more smoothly and there will be less delays in getting the city into such shape and condition that complaints and grumbling will give way to praise that the work is done so well under so many adverse influences. Already the English and German merchants are expressing surprise that the American authorities have succeeded in cleansing the Augean stables of Spanish misrule.

The great point of administration which interests the exporters and merchants of Hongkong, Singapore and Shanghai, is the Custom-house, together with the Captain of the Port. Before going any further, let me say that it is the particular intention of the Collector of Customs, General Whittier, and the Captain of the Port, Captain Glass, to do all in their power to facilitate the import and export of goods, and the movements of the ships to and from this harbour, It is unfortunate that certain interests in Hongkong and other places, jumping too quickly at conclusions and not thinking of other than selfish reasons, criticise the way things are done here. Were those same critics obliged to do the work themselves I venture to say, that they would not do it half as well. We heard recently that a "howl" had been raised in Hongkong and China ports because, first, Spanish duties on imports were continued, and second, American goods were not allowed to enter free of duty. If it is remembered that the first interests to be considered in all these matters are those of the merchants already here, the reasonableness of the arrangements will be understood; supposing that the Spanish duties on which basis all English merchants here imported great quantities of goods had been suddenly lessened or that a great flood of American goods had been allowed in free what would have been the result? None other than that the large stock of imported goods on hand would have proved a heavy loss. They would have been sold either at no profit or, what is more probable, at a heavy loss. Such a condition would have seriously crippled if not ruined certain firms here. Direct supplies for the army and navy may, of course, come in free, but not those for general sale or consumption. It is true that many steamers were sent down here loaded with goods originally made in America and so marked, with the expectation that they would escape the duty, but in more than one instance those were exports from the United States to China that had already been sold in China and hence had lost their name, in Customs' rating, as strictly American products; and yet a determined effort was made to bring them into Manila as direct imports from the United States. All the English merchants here were united in opposing special discriminations and they succeeded. Assuredly the company which has been located here for 25 years has the right to consideration before the speculator who suddenly drops in and hopes to make a fortune at one turn of the wheel. It is not my purpose to editorialise on this subject, but simply to express the opinions that prevail here. If, moreover, the uniform Spanish duties had not been maintained, months would have been required in which to have introduced successfully a new system.

In the light of present conditions the adoption of Spanish duties was the only thing possible. If the United States permanently occupies the Philippines they will undoubtedly be changed and adapted to American and English ideas of doing business. A free port at the moment is impossible. There is no provision for all the expenses that would arise. Simple military occupation does not include the free conduct of the trade of a port. Were a general change effected at once, it could not be done reasonably and impartially and would completely upset the conditions of trade exchange. When a change or reduction is attempted it must be done slowly and skilfully by experts. Then, in addition to all these reasons, there is no positive understanding as to what will be the future of the Philippines, and to change radically the duties without any certain knowledge of the future would be ridiculous. As it is, shippers and merchants are unanimous in saying that they never before succeeded in getting their Custom-house business attended to so expeditiously as now. There is no *Mañana* in Manila, except among the Spaniards and natives. With them it is still *Mañana, Mañana!* I am sending you a copy of the *Customs Tariff and Regulations for the Philippine Islands* issued by the United States' War Department.

We have had wonderful weather during the past ten days. The sea has been smooth as a floor the greater part of the time. This has facilitated the unloading and loading of ships. Rains are needed and will be welcomed. The waterworks are now in good order and condition and furnishing a regular supply of water for the city. On a personal visit to the pumping headquarters at San Olan, the reservoirs at San Juan del Monte, and along the line of the Aqueduct and pipes, I was impressed with what a splendid system Manila has for supplying water. It is far better, greater, more costly, and better done than I would expect to find here. It is certainly a great engineering achievement which would be a credit to England or the United States. The insurgents have a guard of 40 men at the pumping station and an equal number at San Juan del Monte, but they do not molest American officers visiting the works. This matter of the Water-works was satisfactorily arranged by Merritt and Aguinaldo and there should be no more trouble in the near future. While Mr. Bass, correspondent of *Harper's Weekly*, was going out to the works the other day, the horse which he rode was shot in the left leg by a Mauser bullet which barely missed hitting Mr. Bass himself. While there is no evidence that he was directly fired upon, because he neither heard the report nor saw the smoke, the horse was certainly shot as cleanly and accurately as could be done by a skilled marksman.

The insurgents are comparatively quiet but are drilling every day, and at Camp Dewey, evacuated by the Americans, there are some 15 companies of rebels drilling every day. Aguinaldo says that he desires to assist the Americans and the Americans do not intend to bother him if he does not overstep the limits of endurance, unless orders to that effect come from America. While I am prone to stand up for Mr. Aguinaldo and his followers as having certain rights I want to say that he will make the greatest blunder of his life if he thinks for one minute that American soldiers are not different from Spaniards. If he behaves himself he will be better off than ever before. If he excites Uncle Sam's soldiers to war he will wonder what struck him! No typhoon, no earthquake known in the annals of the Philippines, will give him an adequate idea! America stands ready to give the *Philippinos* liberties such as they never enjoyed before and make the common people happy and prosperous, but she will stand no humbug from Aguinaldo who came here only by American aid.

Manila Bay, 3rd September.

Aguinaldo has at last decided to change his headquarters. He has been reported as doing so many times, but each time he remained at Bakor. It can now be said with authority that he will move therefrom. While he does not state positively the locality of his future capital it will probably be Mololla, which is to the north on the line of the railway leading to Dagupan. There are several good reasons for the change which his officers advance, although Aguinaldo himself says little about plans that involve his personal movements. At the present time he is between two divisions of the American army: one at Manila and one at Cavite, practically within their lines of co-operation, if not operations, and within near shelling distance of the American fleet. If there is to be any trouble with the Americans which, for the good of the Philippinos as much as Americans, is to be deplored, it is good strategy for him to change his present position. Then again, he intends to combine and unite his forces by going to the north and place himself where he can be in closer touch with the more powerful leaders of that section. Still another reason is that he will be on the line of the railway where, if necessary, he can either escape to a point further north and get away into the mountains, or cut the line to prevent the American transport of troops or connect himself with supply points in the rich provinces between Manila and the Gulf of Singayen where the railway now ends.

There are still other reasons for this change of base. Undoubtedly Aguinaldo is frightened as to the future. He could not be called a great, brave man himself and hence he cannot individually inspire his men and followers so that they will always stand by him. Unless he goes to the north he fears that he will lose his hold on his chiefs in that section or that they will separate themselves from him and proclaim another as President. As each day passes Aguinaldo sees the weakness of his cause and the frailty of his claims developing into absolute failure unless the Philippines shall be returned to the Spaniards, when he would indeed have a just cause for fighting. He knows secretly that he has committed a great error in proclaiming independence; he is well aware that, but for American assistance, he would never have been where he is to-day; he is conscious that he owes almost everything to American assistance and co-operation; and is likewise mindful of the fact that he is almost guilty of the gravest treachery towards the United States in assuming the attitude which he has in his relation with the United States officials; in his proclamations; and in the instructions and orders which he has issued, realising, at the same time, that the great Powers of Europe will never recognise his claim to independence.

In view of all these conditions Aguinaldo intends to be ready to run if compelled. If his magnificent bluff fails he must get out of the way; and he knows it. If this running shall be from the Americans I pity him, because there are 15,000 men here that will never stop till they find him, if they are ordered to bring him into Manila. At the same time if he will pursue the honourable course and not take advantage of the nation to which he owes everything and gracefully accept its chief control if the Paris Tribunal so decides, he will find these Americans equally ready to protect the rights of the Philippinos and do their best to promote the prosperity and welfare of the natives, as well as Americans and foreigners.

The great error of Aguinaldo and his followers is that they do not realise that Americans are almost as different from Spaniards as white from black and that the formers' ideas of government, freedom, and justice are entirely unlike those of the latter. Just because the American authorities cannot and do not in a few days completely change the administrative affairs in Manila and even allow a few Spanish officials to remain temporarily in their places, the insurgent leaders blindly argue that there is no difference between Americans and Spaniards in order to influence the common people. They will not for a moment look forward to the future nor will they recognise the local difficulties of the situation.

It is interesting news that the insurgents have started a daily newspaper called the *Independencia*. It is published at Malabon and its purpose is evidently to hold the faithful to the flock and inspire others to join the cause. Its tone reminds one much of the amateur and schoolboy papers at times printed in England and America. In some respects it is bright but its attitude is so "blood and thunder," "independence or death," without giving any good reason for its position, as far as the Americans are concerned, that I doubt if it will be very influential. Several prominent natives have told me that its only purpose was to agitate and keep alive the sentiment for independence.

Two conditions of the insurgents are now quite noticeable, especially as they are in direct contrast; the first is that many of the best men in the insurgent camp and some of Aguinaldo's particular advisers are deserting him and coming to live peacefully in Manila, with the hope that America will retain possession. I have met four or five such men who, I had supposed, would always remain faithful to Aguinaldo, and I have heard of a dozen men who have undoubtedly given up supporting Aguinaldo's untenable attitude towards America. The second is that the rank and file of the insurgents are what might be termed very "cocky," and at times insolent without cause. They seem to poke and seek—a manner which may lead to trouble and quarrels. Whether this spirit is fostered by their officers I do not know, but it exists and should be curbed. In this connection it can be added that at the slightest provocation, the insurgent garrisons, which are located in the city limits, spring to arms. If a child blows off a popgun or a soda water bottle bursts in the vicinity, these apparently lazy soldiers jump to their arms like a cat upon its prey. All this is very well if the Spaniards are to hold the Philippines—which is extremely improbable—but very, very unfortunate if the Americans are to remain in possession as we all hope and pray.

As several insurgent steamers are still cruising in Philippine waters, all vessels formerly flying the Spanish flag are making a rush to secure American registers and so have the right to fly the American colours and obtain the protection they need now, even if they never did before. This work makes Consul Williams very busy. At one time it looked as if he might be without a billet under the present *régime*, but not so now. He has his hands full looking after shipping and kindred matters.

By an order issued a few days ago Consul Williams was duly appointed by Major-General Otis to perform Consular duties in this locality, under the United States Military Government here established, in certain particulars, as follows: "To attest under the U. S. Consular Regulations all bills of sale of vessels; to certify to all invoices of exports and to administer and make attestations to all required oaths necessary in preparation and completion of shipping articles."

It will concern the business interests of Hongkong, Singapore, and Shanghai that, notwithstanding the first orders to the contrary issued before the Armistice, commercial vessels can now sail from Manila to any and all ports of the Philippines carrying cargo, so that the apprehended lock-up of goods in Manila godowns will be obviated. Conditions of business are improving every day, the Custom-house is working with excellent precision and rapidity, and withal the American officials seem to be handling the situation most successfully.

A strike is now on among the tramway drivers and conductors and among the launch crews. They have made a demand for ridiculously high wages—three times what they were getting—because they think the Americans have plenty of money and can afford to pay what they demand. Indications are that they will fail, beyond possibly obtaining a slight increase, deserved on account of rush of work. This incident proves that even in distant tropical climes strikes can be carried on with the same system as in the United States and Europe. No trains ran yesterday or to-day and none but navy launches were seen at work on the river. The Americans spoiled the natives when they first entered the city by spending money too freely and paying any price asked. Colonels Overshine, Lime, Whittier, and Hale have been promoted to Brigadier-Generals of Volunteers, and Brigadier-Generals Anderson, Greene, and McArthur to Major-Generals of Volunteers, and there are some regrets that others did not secure the coveted honours. But nobody will begrudge these able officers their step up the ladder of military glory.

The *Rio de Janeiro* leaves in a few days for San Francisco with the convalescent wounded of the American army. They will be given a royal reception when they arrive.

We are daily expecting to see the *Powerful* in port to relieve the *Immortalité*, but we shall greatly miss Captain Sir Ed. Chichester, than whom a better skipper never lived.

Manila Bay, 5th September.

LONDON.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

◆

THE CRISIS IN CHINA.

Public feeling has been deeply aroused by the diplomatic defeats which this country has suffered in the matter of the railway concessions in China. As usual, the first news of those defeats came to us from the Peking correspondent of the *Times*. Indeed it is evident that once again the *Times* has obtained important information in advance of her Majesty's Government. But while public opinion almost universally condemns the Government for the series of blunders which have enabled Russia to administer to us these rebuffs, there is a good deal of difference of opinion as to the course which ought now to be pursued. The view which the *Times* has for some weeks been urging—that we should abandon the policy of the "open door" and fight the other Powers on their own ground of "spheres of influence" is more and more gaining favour. Against this policy it is of course urged that while England's Free Trade policy will permit other nations to compete with her on equal terms in her own sphere of influence, England in her turn will be shut out by preferential duties from the spheres of influence of other nations. But however desirable the "open door" policy may be, the general feeling is that it is no longer tenable. This may be Lord Salisbury's fault, but whosever fault it is the mistake cannot now be rectified. Russia, France, and Germany are all opposed to us on the "open door" question, and now even little Belgium has joined them. We could only stand out at the risk of an almost certain war in which all the other Powers would be arrayed against us actively or passively.

A POSSIBLE SOLUTION.

But I have heard within the last twenty-four hours on unimpeachable authority that unofficial negotiations have been commenced between Russia and England which open up a possible way out of the difficulty, unofficial in the sense that the personages engaged in the negotiations are not acting as accredited agents of the Governments, but semi-official in the sense that the Foreign Office and the Russian Embassy are conversant with the proposals which are under discussion. My information goes to show that Cabinet Ministers are as fully alive to the gravity of the situation as any of their critics. They recognise the necessity of resisting at any cost the policy of Russia in checking every British commercial and railway enterprise in China. But in their position of responsibility they naturally weigh more closely than their critics the risks of a great war. They are therefore prepared to consider any proposals for a basis of understanding between Russia and England. Briefly, the proposal put forward on behalf of Russia is that England should recognise the Russian sphere of influence in Northern China, and that Russia in return should not only recognise England's sphere of influence in the Yangtze Valley, but should also guarantee to England equality of treatment as regards commerce in Northern China. If an agreement were come to on this basis there is, they contend, no reason why the British loan for the Newchwang Railway should not be effected. Great Britain would consent not to have any lien on the railway, but she could obtain from China some other sufficient security for the loan. Russia, in effect, would earmark Manchuria and part of Northern China as territory which would some day fall into the Russian Empire, but would guarantee to England that her trade should not be driven out of that territory. The obvious objection is that no reliance could be placed on any guarantee of the kind which Russia might give; but as an alternative to war, and as a basis of negotiation, the proposal may be worthy of consideration.

THE PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT.

Parliament has risen to-day, and for six months to come Lord Salisbury will be able to work his sweet will in foreign affairs untrammelled by the inconvenient questions of legistators. But fortunately the Peking correspondent of the *Times* seems well able to keep us informed of every step which is taken by the Tsungli Yamên under pressure of the Powers. In Home legislation the Government have no great achievements to boast of. The Vaccination Bill has been passed, the Lords having given way on the subject of the Conscience Clause, and what has been forcibly called free trade in smallpox has therefore been introduced. Still there are hopes that the measure will do at least as much good as harm. Though it enables "conscientious objectors" to keep their children unvaccinated, it renders vaccination so much easier and safer for the merely apathetic that possibly the falling-off in the proportion of the vaccinated will not be very great The only measure of first-rate importance which has been passed into law has been the Irish Local Government Bill, though a few other useful non-party measures, such as those enabling accused persons to give evidence, establishing a teaching university for London, and preventing abuses in church patronage have also been added to the Statute Book.

MR. HOOLEY'S ACCUSATIONS.

Mr. Hooley has been ill, and has consequently been absent from two consecutive hearings of his bankruptcy proceedings. We have therefore had no new disclosures of importance. But there have been some very interesting developments of the old disclosures. One result of the further proceedings has been to show that while there can be no doubt that several noblemen and other persons in positions of trust grabbed all they could get from Hooley with very little scruple of honour or honesty, yet some of Hooley's accusations were made with great recklessness. It is therefore only fair to reserve judgment on all his charges until they have been completely investigated. The accused persons have been allowed to come forward at the Bankruptcy Court and give their explanations, although, except where they happen to be creditors, they have technically no *locus standi* in the Court. But they have to submit themselves to cross-examination, and in consequence of Mr. Hooley's illness the cross-examination has in most cases been deferred. Still in one or two cases the accused have succeeded in putting a very different complexion on the facts—notably Mr. Duguid, whose case I referred to last week, and Mr. Mackworth Praed, the manager of Lloyd's Bank. Mr. Mackworth Praed has always been regarded in the city as a man of the very highest character, and it is not likely that his vindication not only of his own character but of the directors of his bank, which appears most complete, will be shaken in cross-examination. Mr. Hooley, it appears, offered Mr. Praed £35,000 down to leave the service of the Bank and devote his financial abilities to Mr. Hooley's schemes; but the offer was declined. To-day there was a very exciting incident outside the Court. Mr. G. Lawson Johnston, son of the managing Director of the Bovril Company, approached Mr. Hooley and said: "If you fling any more money at us"—meaning apparently the Johnston family and the Bovril directors —"I will tell the Court what I know about your wife's funds." The reply was a cut across the head from Mr. Hooley's cane—a retort which has raised Mr. Hooley somewhat in the public estimation. Mr. Johnston has apologised in Court for his conduct and therefore proceedings for contempt of Court are not to be taken against him as they have been against Earl Delawarr and the other persons accused of having attempted to suborn Mr. Hooley to perjury. With regard to Mr. Broadley—sometime known as Broadley Pasha—who is said to have acted as Mr. Hooley's bribing agent, a question was asked in Parliament, the other day, with regard to a warrant for his arrest on a criminal charge which was issued in India some years ago. The facts in connection with that charge have been pretty openly discussed in London for some years past, but whether they ever reached the ears of the noblemen who negotiated so freely with Mr. Broadley it is of course impossible to say.

THE NEW VICEROY.

Mr. Curzon's appointment to the Viceroyalty of India has been very well received here on all hands. There is a certain stiffness and pedantry about Mr. Curzon which have prevented his attaining a high degree of personal popularity, but his abilities are universally recognised.

12th August.

Peking Gazettes.

ABSTRACT OF PEKING GAZETTE.

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Specially translated for the North-China Herald.

4th July.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) With reference to our previous edict authorising the establishment of an Imperial University at Peking we hereby appoint Prince Ching and Hsü Ying-kuei, President of the Board of Rites, to arrange about the drawing of the necessary plans, selection of situation, etc., with regard to the said University.

(2) We have received the report of the Tsungli Yamên favouring the suggestion of the Censor Chêng Chung-yen to encourage scientific agriculture, according to Western ideas, throughout the Empire. Agriculture is the basis of our Empire and and it is of the highest importance that it should receive every encouragement and assistance from the Government. Now throughout the various provinces there is plenty of land lying idle and ready for the plough, and also land which has not been cultivated so as to produce the fullest extent of its natural stores. We would therefore command the various Viceroys and Governors to instruct their subordinates, the local authorities, to impress upon the gentry and land-owners, as well as farmers, within their jurisdiction, to earnestly seek to improve their lands, choosing the best Chinese and Western methods of cultivation for the purpose. Let it not be all empty talk, but let us see some solid results, and it is the special duty of these local officials to attend energetically and diligently to this work. To encourage all to labour earnestly for the public good we hereby grant permission to the said Viceroys and Governors to recommend to our favourable notice for promotion and higher official preferment all such as can show substantial results in their labours on this head. We further hear that certain persons in Shanghai have formed an Agricultural Association. This step is in the right direction and is one of the levers for enlightening the country at large. We hereby command Liu Kun-yi, Viceroy of the Liangkiang provinces, to procure the rules and prospectus of the said Shanghai Agricultural Association for transmittal to the Tsungli Yamên, which is commanded on receipt of the same to print copies for distribution to the high authorities of the various provinces of the Empire, in order that similar associations may be inaugurated in them all. All persons able to do so are further commanded to translate Western books on the science of agriculture, to be used as text books in the agricultural schools and colleges to be projected in the near future.

5th July.

IMPERIAL EDICTS.

(1) We have received H.I.M. the Empress-Dowager's commands to order the Grand Secretary and Viceroy of Chihli, Jung Lu, to retain his post of Superintendent of Works at the Imperial Mausoleum of Myriad Years at Putukô, Western Hills; and Prince Ching is also hereby appointed to the same duty.

Note.—This Mausoleum of Myriad Years is being built for the special accommodation of the Empress Dowager's remains at some future date. It is alleged that seven million taels have already been expended on the building and it is only half-built as yet.—*Translator.*

(2) We have received a memorial from the Tsungli Yamên concerning the denunciation by two Censors of certain local authorities of Shantung for using the sale of Chaohsin Bonds as a pretext to force rich commoners in their jurisdiction to contribute money, etc. Now this is exactly contrary to the intention of the said Bonds which were meant for the people to purchase *voluntarily*, and we hereby command all Viceroys and Governors to impress this on the minds of their subordinates. We strongly object to the Bonds being forced upon our subjects and if we hear any more of coercive methods being used in their connection we will heavily punish the officers guilty of disobeying our special commands in the above respect.

(3) Appointing a number of Metropolitan and Provincial officials to substantive posts.

6th July,

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) We have received the memorials of Hu Ping-chih, Governor of Shansi, concerning suggestions for the entire changing of the style of examinations for military candidates for degrees; and suggestions that students graduated from the newly established Western learning schools be permitted in the future to compete at the Triennial Examinations for the M.A. and Doctor degrees at the Capital. We hereby command that these memorials be handed to the Board of War and the Tsungli Yamên for deliberation and report in conjunction with a similar memorial on the partial changing of the military examinations by Tao Mu, Viceroy of the Shen-Kan provinces.

(2) Sung Chun, Director-General of the Grand Canal, sends us a eulogy on the administration of the said Director-Generalship by the late Grand Secretary Chang Chih-wan when the latter held that post many years ago. The memorialist states that the people along the Grand Canal, remembering the beneficial government they received at the hands of the late Grand Secretary, are now anxious to build a memorial temple in his honour and pray for the necessary permission, the money for building the temple having been already subscribed by a number of gentry, notables, and wealthy merchants in the vicinity of the memorialist's *yamên*. The request is hereby granted and the Board of Rites is commanded to take note.

(3) The other day we received a memorial from the Censor Yang Chung-yi denouncing Huang Sze-yung, a Vice-Director of the Supervisorate of Instruction of the Heir Apparent, for mismanagement of the funds entrusted to his care for the relief of sufferers from the floods in the metropolitan prefecture of Shuntienfu, in consequence of which there have been many complaints laid before the *yamêns* against the said Vice-Director, etc.. we accordingly commanded Sun Chia-nai and Hu Yü-fên, Governor Adjoint and Govern-

or, respectively, of Peking to investigate the above charges and report truthfully to us. The said report is now before us in which it is declared that the charges formulated against the said Huang Sze-yung have no foundation. There is therefore no necessity of proceeding further in the matter. The memorialists, however, state that the said official was guilty of digging on his own responsibility a number of canals for the outflow of the floods, without first consulting with the local authorities on the subject. Although the step taken was for the good of the flood sufferers, still it was the duty of the said Huang Sze-yung to consult with the local authorities first before digging said canals. He has therefore acted *ultra vires* and we command the said Governor Adjoint and Governor to inform the delinquent Vice-Director of our displeasure at his conduct.

7th July.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) As a measure to encourage the masses to invent new and useful things, and emulate the West in literary efforts for the benefit of the Empire, we hereby promise to give extraordinary rewards to such as write practical and useful books, invent articles of use, machinery, etc., granting to such, according to the value of their labours, either substantive or brevet official rank, hereditary nobility, or decorations in order to encourage the spirit of emulation throughout the empire. They will also be granted certain limits of time and special facilities to enjoy the benefits of their inventions or literary efforts to the exclusion of those who might copy them, while to such as establish by their sole efforts schools, foundries, big guns and arms factories, etc., we promise to reward as our dynasty has been in the habit of rewarding successful Generals who have done extraordinary service to their country. We now command the Tsungli Yamên to draw up the necessary rules and regulations in connection with the above and report upon the same at once.

(2) Commanding that a number of bandits captured by the Peking gendarmerie be turned over to the Board of Punishments for trial.

Meetings.

THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

At a meeting of the Council held in the Board Room, No. 23, Kiangse Road, Shanghai, on Wednesday, the 7th September, 1898, at 4.30 p.m.

Present:—Messrs. J. Welch (Chairman), F. Anderson, E. A. Hewett, J. Prentice, M. Rohde, E. Shellim, A. P. Stokes, and the Assistant Secretary.

The Summons calling the meeting is taken as read.

The Minutes of last meeting are read, confirmed, signed by the Chairman, and passed for publication.

Cash Statement for the past week is submitted, and cheques for sundry accounts are signed.

Return of Prisoners apprehended and police daily reports for the past week are submitted.

Markets.—The Inspector's report for August is submitted, stating that the markets and butcher shops have been visited daily, and all meats carefully inspected. Beef, mutton and fruit have been good, both in quantity and quality. Fish and vegetables were inferior, and the supply poor. 2,608 animals have been slaughtered at the Abattoir, and the fees collected from various sources amounted to $1,035.88.

Departmental Reports.—The following reports are submitted, and ordered to be published:—

MONTHLY REPORT OF HEALTH OFFICER FOR AUGUST, 1898.

There is every likelihood that the settlement will remain free from Cholera this year. There were four new cases of Typhoid fever and two deaths from this cause among foreigners during the month. The death rate among foreigners remains high and exceeds that of the native population; the number of deaths among the latter being considerably less than during the month of July. There were again a small number of deaths from small-pox among the Chinese in the Hongkew district.

Deaths registered among the Foreign Community:—

	1897.	1898.
Small-pox	1	0
Typhoid-fever	0	2
Cholera..........................	0	0
Total from all causes	9	11
Calculated population	5,050	5,240
Death-rate per thousand ...	21.4	25.2

Deaths registered among the Native Community:—

	1897.	1898.
Small-pox........................	0	4
Cholera..........................	1	0
Total from all causes.........	232	292
Calculated population	293,000	317,000
Death-rate per thousand ...	9.05	11.05

Infectious Diseases notified among Foreign Community:—

Small-pox 0, cholera 0, typhoid fever 4, typhus fever 0, dysentery 23, diphtheria 0, measles 1, scarlet fever 0, whooping-cough 5, influenza 0, malaria 10, lobar pneumonia 0, infantile diarrhœa 7. beriberi 1, tuberculosis 3.—Total 54.

The Plague Station was not used during the month.

The Isolation Hospital was not used during the month.

Lock Hospital:—

	1st Week.	2nd Week.	3rd Week.	4th Week.
In-patients ...	6	9	11	13
Out-patients..	162	163	165	167

Vaccine Station.—Preparations are being made to meet the demand for vaccine which begins in the autumn.

Municipal Laboratory.—Bacteriological examinations were made of eleven specimens sent to the laboratory of suspected cases of typhoid fever, diphtheria and plague. Five samples of milk were analysed, two of which were found to be adulterated.

Of the two dogs which were captured on July 3rd, and which were suspected of having rabies, the diagnosis has been verified in the laboratory in the case of one of the dogs.

ARTHUR STANLEY, M.D., D.P.H.
Health Officer.

New Land Regulations.—Letter from the Senior Consul is read, informing the Council that the New Land Regulations have now received all the necessary local approval and have in consequence been referred to Peking for the sanction of the Ministers.

The letter is ordered to be published:—

H. M. F. M.'s Consulate-General,
Shanghai, 5th September, 1898.

SIR,—I have the pleasure to forward to you the translation of a letter from the Taotai on the new Land Regulations and a copy of the answer made by the Consular Body.

From that correspondence you will see that my colleagues and myself consider the question as settled and that the new Regulations will enter into force as soon as they have the sanction of the Diplomatic Body to whom they have been submitted for approval.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
JOAQUIM MARIA TRAVASSOS VALDEZ,
H.M.F.M.'s Consul-General and Senior Consul.

The CHAIRMAN of the Municipal Council.

Taotai Tsai to Senior Consul.
Shanghai, 1st September, 1898.

SIR,—I have the honour to inform you that on the 5th day of the 7th moon (21st August) I received a reply from H.E. Liu, Superintendent of Trade for the Southern Ports, to my communication enclosing copy of the Land Regulations drawn up by the Municipal Council and requesting H.E. to approve them, the reply is as follows:

"The Viceroy is in receipt of the Taotai's communication and copy of Land Regulations. As he has never yet occupied himself with these regulations he deems it undesirable to interfere with them now.

It is a matter that should be satisfactorily arranged between the Municipal Council and the Consular Body with the sole object of being advantageous to the people and merchants. The Taotai will please inform them accordingly."

Some time ago Dr. Stuebel, the preceding Senior Consul, addressed me desiring the Land Regulations to be examined and decided by the Superintendent of Trade for the Southern Ports, which request I duly transmitted to H.E.

Now on receipt of the above reply, I have to acquaint you with it and request you to make the necessary communications.

I avail myself of the opportunity to wish you happiness of the day.

I have the honour to be, etc., etc.,
Card of the Taotai TSAI CHUN,
Esta conforme,
H. A. PEREIRA,
Interprete.

Senior Consul to Taotai Tsai Chün,
Shanghai, 5th September, 1898.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 1st instant communicating to me a dispatch in which His Excellency the Governor-General says that he "deems it undesirable to interfere with the Land Regulations" and that the "matter should be satisfactorily arranged between the Municipal Council and the Consular Body, with the sole object of being advantageous to the people and merchants."

The new Land Regulations have been passed by the ratepayers on the proposal of the Municipal Council, they have been approved by the Consular Body and are not opposed to by His Excellency Liu as they respond to the sole condition proposed by him to be advantageous to the people and merchants. Such is certainly the case, when they were drawn by men of experience who have only in view the welfare of the Settlements and their inhabitants. The question must, in consequence, be now considered as settled. My colleagues and myself have therefore decided to submit to the approval of the Diplomatic Body in Peking these new Regulations, which will then enter into force as soon as they have the sanction of the said Body.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
JOAQUIM MARIA TRAVASSOS VALDEZ.
Consul-General for Portugal, and Senior Consul.

J. WELCH, Esq.,
Chairman of the Municipal Council
for the Foreign Settlement, Shanghai.

The Meeting then adjourns.

The annexed report is submitted, and ordered to be published with the foregoing minutes:—

Police.—Return of apprehensions, etc., made by the Police during the week ending 10th September, 1898:—

Offences.	No. of apprehensions.
Breach of Municipal Regulations	85
Burglary	1
Cutting and wounding	1
Furious riding or driving	2
Gambling	8
Ill-treating women or children	2
Kidnapping	1
Larceny from persons	4
,, ,, dwellings, &c.	97
Miscellaneous cases	326
'Ricsha Licenses suspended	285
,, ,, confiscated	111
Wheelbarrow ,, suspended.........	149
Handcart ,, ,, ...	7
Beggars, Hawkers, and Ragpickers ...	484
Total number of persons coming under the notice of Police	1,563
Chinese dead bodies found in streets..	11
Stray dogs captured....................... ..	147

PIERRE B. PATTISSON,
Captain-Superintendent

COMPARATIVE SUMMARY OF LICENSE FEES, &c., FOR JULY, 1898.

Description of Licenses.	For 1898.			For 1897.			For 1896.		
	For August.		Total from 1st January.	For August.		Total from 1st January.	For August.		Total from 1st January.
	No. of Houses, &c.	License Fee.		No. of Houses, &c.	License Fee.		No. of Houses, &c.	License Fee.	
		$ cts.	$ cts.		$ cts.	$ cts.		$ cts.	$ cts.
Opium-shop and Stores ...	1,505	5,751.00	45,687.50	1,534	5,455.50	41,654.75	1,464	4,784.75	36,505.50
Tea-shop	393	552.70	4,354.20	382	507.90	3,910.30	374	472.10	3,775.90
Wine-shop, Restaurant, etc.	23	46.00	4,997.00	5	9.50	3,570.50	9	18.00	3,323.00
Pawn-shop	...	...	5,909.89	...	...	5,274.72.7	...	...	4,179.93.2½
Theatre, Concert, etc. ...	26	224.50	1,820.50	25	134.00	1,251.00	22	115.00	1,061.00
Livery	P. 656 C. 496	2,660.00	19,681.50	P. 728 C. 569	1,575.50	12,550.50	P. 704 C. 560	1,537.00	11,730.50
Tavern (Foreign)	1	13.33	1,016.83	...	...	987.33	...	...	907.00
Billiard and Bowling......	1	1.00	131.50	...	...	126.00	...	...	126.00
Store-keeper (Native) ...	...	...	2,280.00	1	13.33	2,140.00	...	...	2,191.11
Sampan........................	98	94.00	1,562.00	76	75.50	1,485.50	94	94.00	1,401.00
Cargo Boat (Foreign)......	57	152.50	1,133.50	40	181.00	842.00	43	116.50	843.00
do. (Native)	455	306.00	3,261.50	484	265.50	3,179.50	318	206.50	3,052.00
Boat	1,446	504.26	3,613.57.7	1,628	482.00	3,935.80	2,232	636.45	4,389.51.2½
Jin-ric-sha	3,883	5,824.50	52,600.50	4,086	6,129.00	45,502.50	3,431	5,146.50	41,499.00
Wheel-barrow..............	3,688	2,347.58	22,437.27.6½	4,178	2,514.55	17,418.90	3,537	1,425.50	12,652.47.4
Water-cart	12	24.00	210.00	16	32.00	258.00	17	34.00	276.00
Cart	310	629.50	5,470.00	346	519.00	4,276.50	313	469.50	3,696.75
Lock Hospital..............	41	164.00	1,171.00	36	145.00	1,176.00	35	143.00	1,149.00
Sub. o/a Police on B. W. Road	16	150.00	3,475.50	12	36.00	3,201.50	93	248.00	2,439.50
Butcher-shop, etc.	142	88.50	1,955.50	33	33.00	246.00	28	28.00	223.00
Slaughter-House...........	27	186.94	1,569.86	30	211.37	1,707.36	24	206.30	1,554.31
Cattle-Sheds	27	775.55	6,359.15	30	855.90	6,839.10	24	840.83	6,196.73
Steam Launches	37	101.00	1,226.00	25	62.00	62.0	...	...	...
	Total...$	20,596.86	191,924.28.4	Total...$	19,237.55	161,595.76.7	Total $	16,521.93	143,172.21.9
Dues on Merchandise......	Tls.	5,769.55	36,969.89	Tls.	8,981.25	39,878.06	Tls.	6,044.84	35,218.15
Land Tax....................	,,	14,676.86	137,979,24	,,	14,798.70	108,503.99	,,	5,932.16	68,262.06
Electrical Department ...	,,	6,744.71	61,219.46	,,	2,748.67	40,275.63	,,	3,395.44	28,306.12
G. M. Rate (Foreign) ...	,,	6,685.68	65,964.68	,,	3,246.80	44,986.93	,,	3,074.27	39,957.44
do. (Native)	$	22,700.90.2	230,311.29.3½	$	20,062.00	198,549.41.5	$	18,894.71.5	164,429.19.4
Collected to date for		Sept. quarter 1898.		Against Sept. quarter 1897.			Against Sept. quarter 1896.		
Sept. G. M. Rate (Foreign)	Tls.	6,592.68	20,253.96	Tls.	3,103.92	12,201.62	Tls.	3,045,47	11,718.02
do. (Native)...	$	22,689.32.3	72,154.06.5½	$	20,026.94	67,742.33.5	$	18,879.23.4	56,232.97.7

THE SHANGHAI GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Minutes of a meeting of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce held at the offices of the Chamber, 1, Kiukiang Road, on Tuesday, the 13th of September, 1898, at 4 p.m.

Present:—Messrs. E. F. Alford (in the chair), C. J. Dudgeon, F. W. Koch, A. Korff, W. D. Little, E. Shellim, J. R. M. Smith, A. Werth, and the Secretary.

The Minutes of last Meeting were read and confirmed.

Customs' Returns of Straw Braid.—The letters of 23rd July addressed to the Commissioner of Customs and Statistical Secretary were laid before the meeting together with the replies received, the Commissioner's reply containing the satisfactory assurance that in the Annual Returns for 1898 the values shall be duly and carefully revised. The Commissioner also pointed out that the task of the Customs would be materially facilitated if exporting firms would fill in the straw braid values on their export applications.

The River Approaches to Shanghai.—The Report of the Sub-Committee on the various schemes for improvement of the River Approaches that had been submitted to them was read. It was resolved that same should be adopted by the General Committee, and after some discussion it was decided that same should be conveyed, under a covering letter, to the Senior Consul.

The Senior Consul, etc.—Letters were read from Dr. Stuebel to the effect that during his absence from Shanghai he had handed over charge of his Consulate to Dr. Knappe, and the post of Senior Consul to Mr. J. M. T. Valdez, Consul-General for Portugal. A letter from Mr. Valdez was also read announcing that he had assumed the office of Senior Consul, and it was decided to enquire when replying if his appointment is permanent, or whether the position will be resumed by Dr. Stuebel on his return from Japan.

The Mail Services.—A letter from Messrs. Melchers & Co. was read informing the Chamber that the Norddeutscher Lloyd intended to increase the Mail Service next year, and it was decided to reply that the Committee welcomed the announcement. A letter from the Agent of the P. & O. S. N. Co. in reply to a letter addressed to the Directors on the 16th May, about the time of departure of the Mail steamers, was also read and the Committee note with regret its unsatisfactory nature.

The Chinese Telegraph Administration.—A letter from the Tientsin Chamber of Commerce was read enclosing correspondence that had passed between that Chamber and the Director of the Imperial Chinese Telegraphs, about the mal-administration of that service, and asking for the support of this Chamber. It was resolved to again address the Director in the hope of bringing about much needed reform in the working of the Chinese telegraphs.

Chinese Bank Orders.—The attention of the Committee was drawn to an advertisement that appeared in the *North-China Daily News* of the 12th instant, embodying a proclamation of the Taotai on the subject. This was submitted to the Chamber by the Senior Consul last June, and a reply was sent to the effect that the proposed changes were not approved of, and of this the Taotai was advised. It was decided to draw the attention of the Senior Consul to this matter.

Probable Revision of Tariff.—It was decided to again address H.B.M.'s Minister on this subject.

Report on Hunan.—It was decided that Captain O'Sullivan's Report of a Journey of Exploration in Hunan should be sold to the general public at the rate of Tl. 1.00 per copy.

After the transaction of further business the following correspondence was ordered for publication:—

THE RIVER APPROACHES TO SHANGHAI.

Shanghai, 18th August, 1898.

GENTLEMEN,—We beg to inform you that a meeting of the Special Committee appointed to consider the various schemes submitted for conserving the River Whangpoo was held at the office of the Chamber of Commerce on the 9th instant.

The members present were Messrs. Alford, Chapsal, Korff, Hewett, and the Secretary, Mr. D. Hay, Mr. Dudgeon being absent from Shanghai.

Reports from the following gentlemen were then considered:—Messrs. J. de Rijke, Chollot, de Hees, and Cholnoky.

The schemes advocated by these gentlemen all practically tend to show that in order to satisfactorily carry out the conservancy of the river, one of the existing channels (either the Ship or Junk Channel) must be entirely closed, in order to effectually improve the obstruction at the Inner Woosung Bar and at the same time preserve the entrance of the river at the Outer Bar.

Two only of the reports considered deal with the question of expenditure. Mr. de Rijke estimates the cost of improving the river from Collyer's Dock to the Yangtsze at Tls. 3,000,000, while Mr. Chollot estimates the cost of the work he suggests at Tls. 1,520,000.

The Special Committee do not consider that at this stage of the proceedings they are called upon to finally recommend any particular one of the schemes now before them, but it is obvious that some "authority" must be constituted if conservancy work is to be effectually undertaken and the necessary funds provided. "Authority" and "Finance" are therefore the two primary points for settlement.

A.—The "Authority" needed must, in the opinion of this Committee, be in the form of a Conservancy Board combining the official element, both Consular and Customs, with an equitable representation of Commerce and Shipping interests.

B.—Finance. There are five possible sources:

1.—A special annual charge on the assessed value of the property in the Foreign Settlements, which even at one-tenth of one per cent would produce some Tls. 33,000 per annum.

2.—A similar charge on the property with water frontage on both sides of the river outside the Foreign Settlements but between them and the Yangtze.

3.—A tax on all shipping entering and leaving the port, which at 1 candareen per ton it is estimated would give a further Tls. 80,000 per annum.

4.—A charge on all merchandise in a similar manner to the present wharfage charges, giving at $\frac{1}{20}$th of 1% say, Tls. 55,000. per annum.

5.—An Imperial Contribution from the Chinese Government, equal to three-tenths of the tonnage dues collected in Shanghai, would result in some Tls. 120,000. It being understood that this proportion of the tonnage dues has for very many years past, and still is, diverted from the purpose implied by the treaties, into alien channels.

The aggregate of these annual receipts would probably be sufficient to enable a constituted authority to raise the necessary capital.

The Committee repeat their opinion that the first question to be urged upon the authorities is the formation of a Conservancy Board, who shall have full power to deal, not only with the improvement of the river including the supervision of the collecting and disbursing of the special fund, but also with all matters relating to navigation, etc., etc., of that section of the river extending from the extreme southern limit of the Foreign Settlements to the Yangtze.

All interests which contribute to the cost of the conserving of the river, or are directly concerned in the question, such as the shipping, merchants, and property owners, to be represented on the Conservancy Board.

This Committee are so firmly convinced of the necessity which exists for having this Board constituted with the least possible delay, that they consider this should be made a *sine quâ non* to Treaty Revision, even though it may be found necessary for the time being to postpone the work of improving the river.

We are, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servants,
E. F. Alford,
E. A. Hewett,
J. Chapsal,
A. Korff,
Members of the Special Committee.

To the Committee, of the Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce.

THE MAIL SERVICE.

Shanghai, 26th August, 1398.

Dear Sir,—We have the honour to inform you that commencing from January 1899, the service of the Norddeutscher Lloyd Mail Steamers to East Asia will be a fortnightly one, and the Directors of the Company have now under consideration to approach the other two Mail lines, *viz.* the P. & O. S. N. Co., and the Mess. Mar. Co., about an alteration of the existing Mail Services.

They propose to run their steamers at regular intervals with those of the P. & O. and Messageries Maritimes, and as such arrangement would doubtless be to the advantage of the commercial community of this port we trust that our Directors' proposal will have the support of your Chamber.

We are, Dear Sir,
Your obedient servants,
Melchers & Co.,
Agents, Norddeutscher Lloyd.

E. F. Alford, Esq.,
Chairman, Shanghai General
Chamber of Commerce.

P. and O. Steam Navigation Co.,
Shanghai, 5th September, 1898.

Sir,—Referring to your letter dated 16th May addressed to the Chairman of the P. and O. Co. with reference to the time of departure of the English Mail from Shanghai, I now beg to confirm what I have already stated to you verbally, that my Directors have instructed me to express their regret that they are unable to comply with the wish expressed by your Committee.

Existing conditions render it impossible for any action to be taken in the direction desired by you, and my Directors much regret therefore that they cannot reply in a favourable sense to your letter.

I am, Sir,
Yours faithfully,
Edbert A. Hewett.
Agent.

E. F. Alford, Esq.,
Chairman, Shanghai Chamber
of Commerce.

THE SENIOR CONSUL.

Shanghai, 30th August, 1898.

Sir,—I have the honour to inform you that being about to depart from Shanghai on leave I have handed over charge of the duties of Senior Consul to Mr. J. M. T. Valdez, Consul-General for Portugal.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
O. Stuebel,
Consul-General.

To E. F. Alford, Esq.,
Chairman, Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce.

H. M. F. M.'s Consulate-General,
Shanghai, 31st August, 1898.

Sir,—I have the honour to inform you that H. G. M.'s Consul-General, Dr. Stuebel, being about to depart from Shanghai, on leave, I have assumed charge of the duties of Senior Consul.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Joaquim Maria Travassos Valdez,
H. M. F. M.'s Consul-General and Senior Consul.

E. F. Alford, Esq.,
Chairman of the Shanghai
General Chamber of Commerce.

Shanghai, 30th August, 1898.

Sir,—I have the honour to inform you that I am about to leave Shanghai on furlough and that by instructions received from the Imperial German Government, I have this day handed over charge of this Consulate General to Dr. W. Knappe, H. I. German M.'s Consul-General at Canton.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
O. Stuebel.
Consul-General.

E. F. Alford, Esq.,
Chairman, Shanghai General Chamber
of Commerce.

CLARKE'S B 41 PILLS are warranted to cure, in either sex, all acquired or constitutional Discharges from the Urinary Organs, Gravel, and Pains in the back. Free from Mercury. Established upwards of 30 years. In boxes 4s. 6d. each, of all Chemists and Patent Medicine Vendors throughtout the World. Proprietors, The Lincoln and Midland Counties Drug Company, Lincoln, England.

MESSRS. S. C. FARNHAM & CO., LD.

◆

The sixth annual general meeting of shareholders in the above Company was held at the offices of the company on Wednesday afternoon. There were present Messrs. G. Galles (Chairman), J. R. Twentyman, and D. Peebles (Directors), C. Thorne, J. M. Young, Nils Möller, T. Cranston, G. R Corner, F. A. Hanisch, E Guillemyn, W. Taylor, P. Pilkington, G. W. Noël, T. Pemberton, S. Groundwater, W. S. Jackson, D. Black, and H. Von Rücker (acting Secretary).

The notice convening the meeting having been read, the Chairman said:—

Gentlemen,—Our report and accounts have been in your hands for some time, and with your permission we will take them as read. You will have noticed that we have this year followed the lead of many other companies in not publishing our working account, a copy of which is on the table and you are of course very welcome to see it. Before coming to the capital account I should like to mention that we have again been in the fortunate position to charge a good many repairs and improvements in our works to running expenditure. We have for instance lengthened our Tungkadoo Dock 45 feet, and entirely renewed our Old Dock pump house foundations. Our buildings, plant, etc., are all well kept up and in good working condition. Regarding our assets, we have given a few more details to meet a wish expressed by some of our shareholders. During the year about 10 *mow*, of land adjoining our Cosmopolitan Dock property was bought by us at a reasonable figure, making a total area of 117 *mow* of new land, which cost us about Tls. 335 per *mow* only, inclusive of bunding and wall. Considering that land close to ours was bought at about Tls. 650 per *mow*, this must be regarded as a first-class investment, and will increase in value as time goes on. Our old Lower Dock property measures about 45 *mow* more. When our Mr. Twentyman was at home last year, he purchased a new iron boiler shop, iron sheer legs to lift about 60 tons, and a lot of valuable machinery, which explains the increase of Tls. 65,678.82 in the items machinery, etc. Some of our shares in public companies were sold at a good profit, thus reducing the item shares and cost of *Drumeltan* by about Tls. 7,000. This vessel is now on her way back from New York, and has been doing very well so far. Sundry debtors Tls. 100,597.90 appears rather high, but as this item includes our expenditure on the Cosmopolitan Dock up to the 30th of June last, this can easily be understood. The construction of this dock is getting on slowly, owing to the nature of the soil, but we are doing our utmost to overcome the difficulties in connection with such an undertaking. If any shareholder has any questions to ask I shall be pleased to answer them.

Mr. Nils Möller asked what the gross earnings of the company had been. The chairman in reply referred Mr. Möller to the working account which was laid on the table. There being no further questions, it was proposed by Mr. Galles, seconded by Mr. Twentyman:—

That the report and accounts of the Company for the year ending 30th August be adopted and approved, and that the Directors be authorised to pay a dividend of Tls. 12 per share to the shareholders on the register at this date.

Carried unanimously.

Proposed by Mr. C. Thorne, seconded by Mr. Nils Möller:—

That Mr. J. R. Twentyman be re-elected a Director of the Company.

Carried unanimously.

Proposed by Mr. J. M. Young, seconded by Mr. T. Pemberton :—

That Messrs. G. R. Corner and W. H. Anderson be re-elected Auditors for the present year.

This concluded the business of the meeting and the proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to the Chairman and Directors on the motion of Mr. G. W. Noël, seconded by Mr. C. Thorne.

THE CHINESE HOSPITAL.

Minutes of a meeting of the Working and Honorary Committees of the Chinese Hospital (Shantung Road), held at 31; The Bund, on Friday, the 16th of September 1898.

Present. Messrs. C. Thorne (Chairman), J. L. Scott, J. F. Seaman, Drs. Henderson and Milles, Messrs. H. Gribble, Tong Kid-son, W. Ching-chong, Chun Fai-ting, Shik Ching-Foo, Shao Fong, and Wei Man-po.

The Chairman stated that the meeting was called in consequence of the generous offer that had been made by Mr. W. Ching-Chong to subscribe Tls. 1,000 towards the cost of adding a new ward to the Hospital; an act of benevolence which, there was every reason to hope, would be followed by further special contributions towards the same good object. Plans had been prepared by Messrs. Morrison and Gratton to carry out this work at an estimated cost of about Tls. 7,000 and he (the Chairman) felt sure that the Committee would do all in their power to raise the required sum of money.

After a lengthened discussion it was proposed by Mr. Tong Kid-son, seconded by Mr. J. L. Scott, and carried unanimously :—

"That the plan of adding another storey to the Hospital building be adopted, upon the basis of an estimated cost of Tls. 7,000, and that steps be taken to raise that sum as a special building fund."

The Meeting then adjourned, after a cordial vote of thanks to Mr. Ching-chong for his generous gift.

Donations for the above purpose will be thankfully received and acknowledged by Mr. H. Gribble, 31, The Bund, the Honorary Treasurer and Secretary of the Chinese Hospital.

THE SHANGHAI YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

The Annual General Meeting of members of the above Association was held on Friday evening, the 16th of September. The Rev. W. P. Bentley, M. A., presided and there was a fair number of members present.

The Committee's Report and Treasurer's Statement of Accounts for the past Session were passed; and the following office bearers elected:—President, Mr. John Stenhouse; Vice-Presidents, Mr. E. Wheen and the Rev. E. Box; Secretary, Mr. E. L. Allen (re-elected); Assistant Secretary, Mr. J. S. Dooly; Treasurer, Mr. H. R. H. Thomas; Librarian, Mr. F. W. Fowler (re-elected); Committee, Revs. G. H. Bondfield and R. E. Lewis and Messrs. J. H. Worth, F. Griffin, E. J. Newman, and Jas. Williamson.

The following is the Committee's Report:—

REPORT FOR THE 1897/1898 SESSION.

The Committee beg to submit their report for the past session.

The year's working shows an increased membership, the number at present being 95 against 78 at the commencement of the session.

The last annual general meeting was held at No. 15, Yuen-ming-yuen Road, on the 27th of September, 1897, when the Report and Accounts for the previous session were passed and the new Committee and Officers elected.

Weekly meetings have been held throughout the session on Friday evenings. These meetings were on the whole fairly well attended and the monthly Bible studies proved helpful and interesting.

On the 17th December last Mrs. Archibald Little very kindly allowed her excellent collection of views of the Upper Yangtze to be exhibited at the Astor Hall under the auspices of the Young Men's Christian Association. These views were graphically described by Mrs. Little herself and the hearty thanks of the Committee are tendered to her. The net proceeds of this entertainment amounted to $33.14, thus enabling the Association to donate the sum of $25.00 to the funds of the *Tien Tsu Hui.*

The Members of the society of *King's Daughters* have very kindly assisted on several occasions towards the success of the Social and Musical evenings, and the Committee desire to express their hearty thanks for this valuable help.

Through the kindness of the Union Church Committee the Association has been allowed the free use of two rooms in the house No. 15, Yuen-ming-yuen Road during the past session and the thanks of the Committee and Members are due the Church Committee for this liberality. In consideration of this, the Association has made a donation of $100 towards the Union Church Sunday School Building Fund. The premises have, however, now been demolished to make room for the new church Sunday School buildings and the old difficulty of obtaining suitable premises in which to conduct the Association work is again being felt. The lack of active workers with sufficient leisure to advance the Association work has also been seriously felt.

On the 10th of July last a very enjoyable river picnic was held. The tender *Victoria* was engaged for the occasion and some seventy members and friends took advantage of the excursion and spent a very pleasant afternoon.

The Treasurer's Statement has already been circulated showing balance in hand of $214.84. The amount spent on social meetings has been rather heavier than on previous years otherwise the expenditure has been much as usual.

This report would be incomplete without mention of Mr. R. E. Lewis, a gentleman deputed by the Young Men's Christian Association National Council to organise Christian work amongst Chinese students. Mr. Lewis has already given us evidence of his interest and good-will and we have confidence from what we have already seen and heard of him that our work amongst the young men of Shanghai will reap largely of the fruit of his experience and ability.

In conclusion we have to record our thankfulness for the many tokens of Divine favour which have rested upon the work and upon the members. We also express the confident belief that the brightest years are yet before us in this work, and earnestly invite the cooperation of the men—especially the young men—of Shanghai in carrying forward to greater power and usefulness the Shanghai Young Men's Christian Association.

Y.M.C.A. IN ACCOUNT WITH TREASURER (SESSION 1897-8).

GENERAL ACCOUNT.

Dr.		$
To Boy's wages and New Year gratuity		66.00
,, Boy's accounts for petties		13.50
,, Union Church, donation to S.S. Building Fund		100.00
,, Coals		15.90
,, Gas		35.87
,, Postage		10.35
,, Expenses of various "socials" and Annual Reception		97.88
,, Stationery, printing, etc.		72.69
,, Coffee, milk, etc.		22.00
,, Insurance of furniture		1.37
,, Subscriptions to Magazines, and cost of binding same		60.55
,, Expenses, *re* moving furniture, repairs, etc.		15.34
,, Cost of one cupboard		6.00
,, Loss on 2 bad dollars received		2.00
,, Expenses of "outing" in tender *Victoria*	$119.67	
Less—Tickets sold, and donations	96.67	
		23.00
,, Balance carried down		100.01
		$642.46

Cr.		$
By Balance from last session	$273.58	
Less—Balance of "room account"	30.23	
		243.35
,, Subscriptions for session 1895-6		2 00
,, ,, ,, ,, 1896-7		54.00
,, ,, ,, ,, 1897-8		292.00
,, ,, ,, ,, 1898-9 (paid in advance)		3.00
,, Entrance fees		34.00
,, Donation		1.00
,, Interest on balance at Bank		4.97
,, Net proceeds of Mrs. Archibald Little's lecture "Wild West of China"	$33.14	
Less—Donation to "Tien Tsu Hui"	25.00	
		8.14
		$642.46
By Balance brought down		$100.01

MRS. ARCHIBALD LITTLE'S LECTURE ON "THE WILD WEST OF CHINA."

Dr.	$
To Advertising, printing, etc.	23.86
,, Police attendance	2.00
,, Oxygen gas for lantern	2.00
,, Fixing and removing gas fittings	2.00
,, Hire of Astor Hall	25.00
,, Gratuity to shroff	2.00
,, Donation to "Tien Tsu Hui"	25.00
,, Balance transferred to general account	8.14
	$90.00

Cr.	$
By Sale of tickets by Members	22.00
,, ,, by Kelly & Walsh, Ld.	15.00
,, ,, by Brewer & Co.	10.00
,, ,, at door	43.00
	$90.00

LECTURE ACCOUNT.

Dr.	$
To Balance carried down	114.83
	$114.83

Cr.	$
By Balance from last session	110.96
,, Interest on balance at Bank	3.87
	$114.83

SUMMARY.

Dr.	$
To General account balance	100.01
,, Lecture account balance	114.83
,, Overdraft on Compradore	18.00
	$232.84

Cr.	$
By Cash at Hongkong and Shanghai Bank	232.84
	$232.84

E. & O. E.

Shanghai, 10th September, 1898.

E. J. NEWMAN,
Hon. Treasurer.

Compared with vouchers and found correct,
FREDK. W. FOWLER,
Auditor.

Holloway's Pills.—This cooling Medicine has the happiest effect when the blood is overheated and a tendency to inflammatory action is set up in the system; one Pill taken shortly before dinner does away with the indigestion, fulness, and flatulency—indications of a weak stomach or disordered liver. A few Pills taken at bedtime act as alteratives and aperients; they not only relieve the bowels but regulate every organ connected with them, overcome all acrid humours, and encourage a free supply of all the secretions essential to our well-being. Holloway's Pills thoroughly cleanse and perfectly regulate the circulation, and beget a feeling of comfort in hot climates and high temperatures, which is most desirable for preservation of health. 31

Amusements.

CRICKET.

POLICE R. C. v. NAVY AND "BALLAARAT."

The above match commenced on Thursday afternoon on the Public Recreation Ground. The police who were the first to bat made but a light defence, being all out for a total of 64. The naval team commenced their innings and lost three wickets for a total of six runs, when on account of the failing light the match was adjourned until half-past four on Friday afternoon.

This match was continued on Friday afternoon when the naval team resumed their position of the previous day defending wickets against the ferocious attacks of the Police bowlers Lynch and Champion. Lieut. Forbes and Mr. Vaughan were the only two of the visiting team to put their score into double figures, the latter being outleg-before with a score of 15 while Lieut. Forbes was clean bowled by Champion after compiling 12. The remainder of the side were easily disposed of for a total of 50 against a score of 64 by their opponents on the previous day. Appended are the score and analysis:—

POLICE.

Sergt. Spottiswoode, c. Tuck, b. Finnighan	7
,, Lynch, c. Wheeler, b. Warner	8
,, C. Champion, c. Orchard, b. Warner	7
Insp. Bourke, b. Warner	0
Capt. P. B. Pattisson, b. Warner	8
Sergt. Robinson, b. Orchard	18
,, Chilver, b. Orchard	3
,, Aiers, c. Forbes, b. Warner	0
,, Johnston, c. May, b. Warner	4
,, Eek, not-out	0
Serg.-Maj. Lowrie, b. Warner	5
Extras	4
	64

NAVY AND "BALLAARAT."

Lieut. Chetwode, b. Champion	1
May, run out	2
Maxwell, b. Lynch	1
Wheeler, c. Bourke, b. Lynch	0
Lieut. Forbes, b. Champion	12
S. C. Warner, b. Lynch	2
Dr. Tuck, b. Champion	3
Vaughan, l-b-w., b. Champion	15
E. H. Orchard, b. Champion	6
Mason, b. Lynch	0
Finnighan, not-out	0
Extras	8
	50

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

POLICE.

	Overs.	Runs.	Mdns.	Wkts.
Warner	11	24	3	7
Finnighan	4	17	0	1
Vaughan	3	13	1	0
Orchard	5	6	2	2

NAVY AND "BALLAARAT."

	Overs.	Runs.	Mdns.	Wkts.
E. Lynch	13	18	4	4
C. Champion	12.4	24	4	5

SHANGHAI CRICKET CLUB.

POSSIBLES v. PROBABLES.

This interesting match was played on Saturday on the Cricket Club's ground, the opposing teams being practically nearly the best two elevens of Shanghai. Macgregor's team batted first and compiled the satisfactory total of 146, of which no less than 24 were extras. With the exception of Cumming, McClure, and Smalley, all the batsmen got into double figures, the Captain who went in last having had no chance to score. The "Possibles" succeeded in putting together 143 for 5 wickets when time was called, T. Wallace and W. H. Moule playing brilliant cricket for 54 and 45 not-out respectively. The best catch of the afternoon was taken by S. M. Wallace, when he disposed of Veitch. Taken on the whole the bowling exhibited during the match was disappointing. We give below the full score and analysis:—

PROBABLES.

H. S. King, c. Stewart, b. Moule	18
N. J. Stabb, b. Mann	23
G. F. Lanning, c. T. Wallace, b. Morriss.	11
S. M. Wallace, run-out,	17
H. E. Keylock, c. Stewart, b. Mann	13
E. O. Cumming, b. Mann	6
S. E. Smalley, c. sub., b. Mann	5
A. J. McClure, l.b.w., b. Mann	5
S. L. Darby, b. Dew	14
N. E. Möller, c. sub., b. Mann	10
R. Macgregor, not-out,	0
Byes 14; l-b. 7; w. 3	24
	146

POSSIBLES.

E. R. Morriss, c. Stabb, b. Cumming	16
H. Veitch, c. and b. S. Wallace	2
T. Wallace, b. S. Wallace	54
W. H. Jackson, c. McClure, b. Cumming.	0
W. H. Moule, not-out	45
J. Mann, run-out	5
A. E. Lanning, not-out	14
Byes 4; l-b. 2; n-b. 1	7
	143

G. C. Dew, F. Larkins, W. J. Tyack, and A. E. Stewart did not bat.

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

PROBABLES.

	Overs.	Mdns.	Runs.	Wkts.
Mann	22	3	48	6
Jackson	13	4	23	0
Moule	6	0	14	1
Morriss	4	1	9	1
Stewart	5	4	4	0
Dew	12.3	7	15	1
Tyack	4	1	9	0

POSSIBLES.

	Overs.	Mdns.	Runs.	Wkts.
Darby	13	5	36	0
S. Wallace	11	0	31	2
G. F. Lanning.	5	1	13	0
Möller	10	2	25	0
Cumming	8	2	21	2
McClure	2	0	10	0

SHANGHAI RECREATION CLUB v. POLICE.

This match was played on the Recreation Ground on Saturday and resulted in a good and closely fought game notwithstanding the fact that the Recreation Club were minus the services of their best players engaged elsewhere. The Club went to the wickets first opening with Walsh and Young to the bowling of Lynch and C. Champion. The feature of the game was the innings of Walsh whose contribution of 84 is the highest individual score made this season. He gave one or two difficult chances but on the whole his performance was most commendable. The innings realised 156 as against which the Police responded with 132 for nine wickets—a most interesting draw. The score and analysis are:—

S.R.C.

J. Walsh, c. Robinson, b. Champion	84
A. Young, l.-b.-w., b. Lynch	4
C. de Basagoiti, c. Lynch, b. Pattisson	6
T. Cock, c. Lowrie, b. Pattisson	34
J. Naylor, c. Johnston, b. Lynch	10
R. P. Saunderson, l.-b.-w., b. Pattisson	0
H. C. Russell, c. Lowrie, b. Lynch	0
A. Ritchie, c. Chilvers, b. Champion	0
S. Green, l.-b.-w., b. Champion	12
G. H. Purcell, not-out	5
Wain, run-out	0
Leg bye	1
	156

POLICE CRICKET CLUB.

Sergt. Spottiswood, c. Young, b. Naylor..	4
,, Aiers, run-out	5
,, C. Champion, b. Cock	36
Capt. P. B. Pattisson, l.b.w., b. Walsh	6
Robinson, not-out,	53
Sergt. Lynch, b. Naylor	9
Insp. Bourke, c. Basagoiti, b. Walsh	0
Sergt. Maj. Lowrie, c. and b. Walsh	5
,, Chilvers, b: Naylor	2
,, Johnston, c. Basagoiti, b. Naylor..	1
P. C. Lawrence, not-out,	3
Byes;	8
	132

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

S. R. C.

	Overs.	Runs.	Mdns.	Wkts.
Lynch	15	44	1	3
Champion	7	14	3	3
Spottiswoode	5	15	0	0
Pattisson	15	66	0	3
Chilvers	4	16	0	0

POLICE C. C.

	Overs.	Runs.	Mdns.	Wkts.
Naylor	11	36	1	4
Walsh	12	43	1	3
Saunderson	2	11	0	0
Basagoiti	3	22	0	0
Cock	2	12	0	1

S.P.S.A.C. v. BOWLING CLUB.

A match between two elevens representing the above Clubs was played on Saturday afternoon and resulted in a disastrous defeat for the school. This to some extend may be accounted for by some of their leading spirits shining in higher spheres. The "Bowlers" were the first to bat and their success may be attributed to the batting of Coutts, Sharples and Plummer, the two former compiling 28 and 22 respectively and Plummer 35 not out. With a total of 124 for nine wickets the innings was declared closed, Goodfellow being responsible for six wickets. The innings of the school was unusually short no less than six of them coming out for "ducks." Appended are the score and analysis.

BOWLING CLUB.

H. Adams, b. Goodfellow	1
R. Carr, c. Senna, b. Goodfellow	4
G. D. Coutts, b. Goodfellow	28
E. Gumpert, b. ,,	3
A. M. Reith, c. Gutierrez, b. Goodfellow.	0
G. A. Matthews, b. Moorehead	7
J. C. Hanson, c. Moorehead, b. Goodfellow	1
E. W. Sharples, c. and b. Senna	22
N. E. Cornish, b. Gutierrez	7
L. Plummer, not out	35
C. R. Shaw, not out	1
Extras	15
	124

PUBLIC SCHOOL.

A. N. Woodward, c. Carr, b. Sharples	0
R. H. Moorehead, stumped, b. Coutts	16
C. Biron, l.b.w., b. Coutts	0
G. Gutierrez, run-out	5
W. Middleton, ,,	0
J. E. Watson, ,,	0
A. J. Waller, ,,	10
C. M. Senna, ,,	0
T. P. Moorehead, c. Sharples, b. Carr	0
A. H. White, c. Gumpert, b. Coutts	1
H. S. Goodfellow, not-out	3
Extras	2
	37

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

BOWLING CLUB.

	Overs.	Runs.	Mdns.	Wkts.
H. S. Goodfellow	15	25	4	6
C. M. Senna	12	31	0	1
R. H. Moorehead.	7	21	0	1
G. Gutierrez	4	12	0	1
W. Middleton	3	11	0	0
A. J. Waller	2	6	0	0
J. E. Watson	1	3	0	0

PUBLIC SCHOOL.

	Overs.	Runs.	Mdns.	Wkts.
E. W. Sharples	6	11	1	1
G. D. Coutts	9	20	1	3
R. Carr	4	4	2	1

SHANGHAI RANGERS v. NAVY AND "BALLAARAT."

The above match was played on Saturday afternoon and proved an easy victory for the maritime contingent. The Rangers played a weak team but won the toss and elected to bat. The members of the young Club for some reason or other did not exhibit the talent they have shown on former occasions. Cameron was the only one able to scramble into double figures and he was caught by Chetwode after having compiled 10. The remainder made a poor show, the side being all out for a a total of 27. After a few minutes' interval the naval team commenced their innings by sending Finnighan and Maxwell to bat. The former lost his wicket by the first ball from Wilson and Maxwell was bowled by Cameron with a total of 9 runs. Lieut. Forbes and Dr. Tuck compiled 50 runs, the former 27 when he was neatly caught by Kragh and Dr. Tuck 23 when he was clean bowled by W. E. Wilson. Only one other score of note was made, that of Vaughan who registered 13 before he was caught and bowled by Hill. The side were all out for a total of 109. Appended are the score and analysis:—

RANGERS.

H. Wilson, c. Poulter, b. Finnighan	3
C. Kragh, b. Warner	2
C. Marmon, b. Vaughan	2
J. W. Cameron, c. Chetwode, b. Vaughan	10
A. Hill, l.b.w., b. Vaughan	3
T. Abbott, b. Warner	0
W. E. Wilson, c. and b. Warner	0
Ortwin, b. Vaughan	2
B. Anderton, b. Warner	0
A. Eek, c. Wheeler, b. Vaughan	0
G. Derby, not-out	0
Extras	5
	27

NAVY AND "BALLAARAT."

Finnighan, b. W. E. Wilson	0
Maxwell, b. Cameron	9
Lieut. Forbes, c. Kragh, b. W. E. Wilson	27
Dr. Tuck, b. W. E. Wilson	23
S. C. Warner, c. Derby, b. H. Wilson ...	4
Lieut. Chetwode, b. Cameron	4
Vaughan, c. and b. Hill	13
Orchard, b. W. E. Wilson	6
Poulter, c. Kragh, b. Hill	0
May, not out	8
Wheeler, b. Cameron	3
Extras	12
	109

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

RANGERS.

	Overs.	Runs.	Mdns.	Wkts.
Finnighan	3	3	2	1
Vaughan	8	11	4	5
Warner	7	8	4	4

NAVY AND "BALLAARAT."

	Overs.	Runs.	Mdns.	Wkts.
W. E. Wilson ...	13	35	1	4
J. W. Cameron...	9.2	33	0	3
H. Wilson.........	5	13	0	1
T. Abbott	1	5	0	0
A. Hill	3	11	0	2

SHANGHAI YACHT CLUB.

The course for the race on Saturday was up river, round Stakeboat moored about three miles above Pagoda Point and return—about 16 miles. The starters were:—

Coronella	Mr. G. V. T. Marshall.
Henrietta	„ T. Ruff.
Idaho	„ E. W. Graham.
Lamb	„ C. A. Pullan.
Spoondrift...........	„ A. E. Jones.
Violet	„ Duncan Glass.

At the start the *Violet* and *Spoondrift* got over the line too soon and lost several minutes in working back against the strong flood in order to re-cross. In the meantime the other boats were away into a long lead in the following order, *Coronella, Idaho, Henrietta* and *Lamb*. There was a good sailing breeze from the South East making it a beat to Tungkadoo. The *Spoondrift* passed the *Lamb* among the junks and the *Henrietta* just above Tungkadoo. In the run and reach from here to the stakeboat the *Violet* showed her quality by running from last place successively through the lee of the *Lamb, Henrietta, Idaho* and *Spoondrift*, the latter having passed the *Idaho* in Pagoda Reach.

The *Coronella* maintained her lead to the stakeboat, closely followed by the *Violet, Spoondrift, Idaho* and *Henrietta*; the *Lamb* being some distance astern.

The tide was still running flood and in the close-hauled work against it the *Spoondrift* passed the *Violet* and drew up close to the *Coronella*.

Entering Pagoda Reach the *Coronella* kept rather too much mid-stream and was passed by the *Spoondrift* and *Violet*, both of which arrived and crossed the river quickly into the slacker water on the Pootung side.

From Pagoda Point all crossed over to the Arsenal side and short tacks against wind and tide were the order of the day. The *Flappers* were at the same work and thus the whole fleet was together making a very pretty sight. The *Spoondrift* increased her lead somewhat and the *Coronella* very ably sailed by Inspector Mellows repassed the *Violet*.

No further change of importance occurred. Finishing times were:—

	Elapsed times.	Handicap allowance.	Corrected times.
	h. m. s.		h. m. s.
Spoondrift ...	2 31 50	—	2 31 50
Coronella......	2 32 35	9.00	2 23 35
Violet	2 34 17	2.00	2 32 17
Idaho	2 34 26	13.00	2 21 26
Henrietta ...	2 36 50	11.00	2 25 50
Lamb	2 46 50	26.00	2 20 50

The *Spoondrift* wins the rating prize, and the 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes for the handicap class go respectively to the *Lamb, Idaho* and *Coronella*.

It will be noticed that the *Lamb* only won by 36 seconds from the *Idaho* and that considering allowances given, varying from 2 to 26 minutes, the handicap was throughout an excellent one, reflecting great credit on the Handicapper, Capt. J. P. Roberts. Had the *Violet* and *Spoondrift* not made the mistake they did at the start, the handicap would probably have brought the whole fleet with only 5 or 6 minutes' difference between first and last.

THE "FLAPPERS."

(FROM "SPORT AND GOSSIP.")

Leven	No. 1.	Mr. C. Murray Adamson
Madcap	„ 2.	„ G. E. Burgoyne.
Irvine	„ 3.	„ T. A. Clark.
Merlin	„ 4.	„ Messrs. Styan and Beeston.
Sibyl	„ 5.	„ C. H. Burghard.

There was a nice whole sail breeze from about S.E. all the boats being in readiness at the first gunfire. Mr. Crosthwaite was entrusted with the *Madcap*, the owner being detained through press of business. The *Leven* and *Irvine* being over anxious to secure the position to windward misjudged the start in a manner that had better not be described, so that at 2.15 p.m. the *Sibyl* was first away, while the *Merlin* was the last to cross the line. Going up through the Junks several short boards had to be made, the *Sibyl* still leading, but off the Arsenal the *Irvine* came through followed by the *Madcap*. It was about 3.20 p.m. when the boats arrived at the stakeboat which was moored a good quarter of a mile short of the usual course, the order being *Irvine, Madcap, Sibyl, Leven, Merlin* all close up. The rounding of the mark was rather awkward owing to the direction of the wind and strong flood still running. The *Irvine* managed to get a long lead from the others at this juncture, but victory was not to rest with her as the wind fell very light so that the *Madcap*, having all the luck, caught her at Tungkadoo and came home winner with plenty in hand. The finish was timed as follows:—

Madcap	5h.	7m.	26s.
Irvine.....	5h.	10m.	05s.
Leven	5h.	12m.	39s.
Sibyl	5h.	14m.	57s.
Merlin	5h.	18m.	05s.

SHOOTING.

THE INTER-COMPANY CHALLENGE SHIELD.

The German Company having challenged the holders, the Mih-Ho-Loong Rifles, to defend the Shield a match was arranged for 500 and 700 yards, twelve men a side.

The 500 yards range was fired on Tuesday and the 700 yards on Wednesday morning. Conditions for shooting were not very favourable, light being somewhat indifferent both mornings, whilst a moderate 10 o'clock wind prevailed.

The German Company Team won the match making an aggregate of 605 as against 602 by "A" Company. The three highest individual scores were made in the team of the defeated Company:—Priv. Dumfries 63, Col.-Sergt. Sharples 61, Priv. Reis 61.

GERMAN COMPANY.

	500 yds.	700 yds.	Total.
Priv. Kamp	29	31	60
Corp. Phillip	26	32	58
Priv. Landgraf	27	31	58
„ Eichwede	30	26	56
„ Muller	21	32	53
Corp. Wilkomm.........	29	24	53
Priv. Wiebel	27	24	51
„ Groutmann	19	31	50
„ Treppenhauer ...	23	26	49
„ Stolterfoht	25	20	45
Sergt. Blickle	25	16	41
Priv. Joost	19	12	31
	300	305	605

"A" CO.

	500 yds.	700 yds.	Total.
Priv. Dumfries	32	31	63
Col.-Sergt. Sharples...	28	33	61
Priv. Reis	30	31	61
„ Hart	33	25	58
„ Laing..............	27	28	55
„ Steiner	31	23	54
Capt. Little	30	21	51
Priv. Cumming	26	19	45
Corp. Shadgett	25	19	44
Priv. Stabb	17	22	39
Corp. Stewart	21	17	38
Priv. Smithers	13	20	33
	313	289	602

CHEFOO RACE MEETING, 1898.

(By Telegraph from Our Own Correspondent.)

Stewards:—J. Block, Esq., P. Calender, Esq. (Clerk of the Course), J. W. Carrall, Esq., H. J. Clark, Esq. (Hon. Secretary and Treasurer), P. F. Lavers, Esq., A. N. T. Ostroverkhow, Esq., L. H. Smith, Esq.

First Day.

Friday, 16th September, 1898.

1.—Yentai Cup.—Value $60. Second Prize $20. *Half-a-mile.* Weight for inches as per scale.—Entrance $2.

Mr. Calender's chestnut *Sleipner*...... 1

2.—Maiden Stakes.—Value $100. Second Prize $20 *One mile.* For ponies that have never run at any previous meeting. Weight for inches as per scale.—Entrance $5.

Dr. Molyneux's black *Loro* 1

3.—Shantung Plate.—Value $100. Presented by the Compradores of Chefoo. Second Prize $25 from the Race Fund. *Three-quarters of a mile.* Weight for inches as per scale.—Entrance $3.

Mr. Tigg's grey *Fairhaven*............... 1

4.—Army Cup.—Presented by General Sun. Second Prize $25 from the Race Fund. *One mile.* For ponies the *bonâ fide* property of residents of Chefoo. Weight for inches as per scale.—Entrance $3.

Mr. Calender's chestnut *Sleipner* 1

5.—Haikuan Cup.—Presented. For ponies first raced as griffins at Chefoo at this and previous meetings. Second Prize $20 from the Race Fund. Ponies which have won a race penalised 5-lbs. Jockies who have never had a winning mount in China or Hongkong allowed 7-lbs. Weight for inches as per scale. *One mile.*—Entrance $3.

Mr. Skippers' chestnut *Sinbad* 1

6.—Northern Cup.—First Prize 70%, Second Prize 20%, Third Prize 10% of half of Visitors' Cup Subscription List. *Once round the Course.* For ponies the *bonâ fide* property of residents of Chefoo. Weight for inches as per scale.—Entrance $5.

Dr. Molyneux's chestnut *Free Lance*.. 1

7.—British Navy Cup.—Presented by the Admirals, Captains and Officers of the British Naval Squadron. Second Prize $50 from the Race Fund. *One mile.* For ponies the *bonâ fide* property of residents of Chefoo. Weight for inches as per scale.—Entrance $5.

Mr. Freshmen's skewbald *Katahdin*...*1
Mr. Neighbour's black *Razzle Dazzle*..*2

* Dead heat.

Run off—*Katahdin* won.

8.—Chefoo St. Leger.—*One mile and a quarter.* Forced entry for all ponies entered at the meeting, except griffins, optional for griffins. First Prize 65% of entrance fees with $50 added from Race Fund. Second Prize 25% of entrance fees. Third Prize 10% of entrance fees. Weight for inches as per scale.—Entrance, $10 for one pony and $5 extra for each other pony from same stable.

Mr. Calender's chestnut *Sleipner* 1

Second Day.

Saturday, 17th September, 1898.

1.—Southern Cup.—First Prize 70 per cent, Second Prize 20 per cent, Third Prize 10 per cent of half of Visitors' Cup Subscription List. *Once round the Course.* Weight for inches as per scale.—Entrance $5.

Mr. Neighbour's black *Razzle Dazzle*... 1

2.—Consular Cup.—Presented by the Chefoo Consular Body. Second Prize $20 from the Race Fund. *Three-quarters of a mile.* Winners at this meeting penalised, for 1 Race 5-lbs., for 2 Races 8-lbs., for 3 or more Races 10-lbs. Jockeys who have not won a Race at this meeting allowed 7-lbs. Weight for inches as per scale.—Entrance $3

Dr. Molyneux's chestnut *Free Lance.* 1

3.—Taotai's Cup.—Presented by H.E. the Taotai. Second Prize $35 from the Race Fund. Third pony to save his stakes. *One mile and a-half.* For ponies the *bonâ fide* property of residents of Chefoo. Weight for inches as per scale. Entrance $5.

Mr. Calender's chestnut *Sleipner* 1

4.—Ladies' Purse.—Presented by Ladies resident of, and Visitors to Chefoo. Second Prize $20 from the Race Fund. *Three-quarters of a mile.* Weight for inches as per scale. Ponies which have run at this meeting and not won a race allowed 7-lbs. Entrance $3.

Mr. Freshmen's skewbald *Katahdin*...*1
Dr. Molyneux's chestnut *Free Lance*..*1

* Dead heat.

5.—Chefoo Derby.—Forced entry for all griffins at this meeting, optional for ponies raced in Chefoo which were entered and did not win a race in 1896/7. First Prize 65 per cent of Entrance fees with $50 added from Race Fund, Second Prize 25 per cent of Entrance fees, Third Prize 10 per cent of Entrance fees. Winners of one Race penalised 5-lbs. and of 2 Races 7-lbs. Weight for inches as per scale.—Entrance $10 for one pony and $5 extra for each other pony from same stable.—*One mile and a-quarter.*

Dr. Molyneux's black *Loro* 1

6.—Race Club Cup.—Value $75. Second Prize $20. *One mile.* For griffins at this meeting and ponies entered in 1897 meeting and which did not win a race. Weight for inches as per scale. Winners at this meeting penalised 5-lbs. for each race won.—Entrance $2.

Mr. Skipper's chestnut *Sinbad* 1

7.—Champion Stakes.—First Prize, 75 per cent of Entrance Fees with $75 added from the Race Fund, Second Prize $35. *One mile.* Forced entry for all winners. Weight for inches as per scale. Entrance,—Winner of one race $10; Winner of two races $15; Winner of three or more races $20.

Mr. Calender's chestnut *Sleipner* 1
Time, 2mins. 14secs.

8.—Consolation Stakes.—Value $50. Second Prize $20. *Once round the Course.* Forced entry for all losers. Weight for inchse as per scale. Entrance $3.

Mr. Barrell's chestnut *Slaves*........... 1

Correspondence.

THE MIXED MISSIONARY MARRIAGE.

To the Editor of the

North-China Daily News.

Sir,—The spirit in which your numerous correspondents have written on the all-absorbing topic of the "Mixed Missionary Marriage," with the exception of two, that from "A Chinese," and the other "Not a Chinese," it seems to me, is much to be deplored. There is not one grain of Christian charity in the whole discussion over this much-abused marriage.

What have these two Christians, man and woman, done to call forth such censures upon their devoted heads? It is said, one is a Chinese the other European! But are they not *Christians?* Does the fault lie so heavily on a Chinese who has become a Christian just because he is a Chinese and has had the audacity to aspire for a fellow Christian's hand, and through years of faithful waiting and zeal in the work of Christ, won the helpmate he waited for so long? The Saviour Himself would have graced this wedding in person, I have not the least doubt, and would have silenced every self-asserting or dictatorial opinion. He, I feel sure, witnessed this marriage in heaven and blessed their union.

What lack of Christian charity there seems to be amongst those who profess themselves to be Christians! St. Paul preaches to every Christian to have this spirit of Christian charity; does he not say "Charity suffereth long and is kind?" etc. Would it not have been a far more gracious act in thus stretching forth a friendly hand, wishing these two Christians every happiness and 'God-speed' as co-workers with you in the conversion of this country where so much is still to be done? Every Christian, if he or she be indeed a Christian, is in duty bound to give the cup of water for Christ's sake, or he will be denounced by Him at the Great Day. They are Christians, and as such no Christian has any power or right to cut them off: every Christian in his right mind should stand by them: God expects it of you; Christ, the Saviour, expects it of you, and every right-minded person expects it.

I fear "An Englishman" does not know what he was writing about when he touched on the subject of Chinese having more than one wife. Wealthy Chinese have many concubines, but the *wife* is the wife always; nothing can break the bond that binds them; only unfaithfulness! Marriage amongst the Chinese is as sacred as it is considered by other nations. But why wander away from the main subject? These two, who have created such a commotion, are *Christians*, and I should think must be old enough to know their own minds!

The humble have always been the means of great purposes used in the Almighty's own way. I shall now congratulate these newly-married Christians and wish them every happiness and prosperity and encouragement in their Christian work.

I am, etc.,

12th September. Charity.

To the Editor of the

North-China Daily News.

Sir,—Will you give me a little space in your valuable paper to make a few remarks and to ask a few questions? I do not wish to uphold my countrywoman beyond saying that as she had had seven years' experience of China and the Chinese, and probably thought she could do more good, and knew quite well what she was doing, she had a right to please herself. I want some one to explain the difference between the mixed marriage at our own doors and this one, where a highly-educated, refined, intellectual, clever man married a Chinese helper or assistant in the same mission. I am not aware that the marriage called forth any severe remarks from either missionaries or laymen. He was surrounded by European girls of all nationalities and could have chosen from the best. On the other hand, a young girl is brought from home, taken to the interior of China, put into Chinese clothes, given Chinese food, with possibly very little education (as the Inland Mission do not deem much education necessary for a missionary), brought possibly into daily contact with a Chinese helper and convert, perhaps taught by him: she may possibly have had feelings even as some men; and knowing the Chinese from long experience I do not hesitate to say she could have done much more good as a married woman, and have had the *entrée* into families and houses, where she would never have been admitted as a single girl. I fail to see what harm she has done to the Mission; many missionaries have done worse. I presume the converted helper was paid and the young girl maintained by the Mission, and as they could have benefited the Mission so much more together than singly, I fail to see where the *burden* to the Mission would have come in. *Yet* they say she is turned out of it. The converted helper has possibly also incurred the displeasure of his own people and will find it difficult to maintain his wife, yet they cannot *burden* the Mission, because they have acted right in the sight of God. They are turned out. Is this the mercy and pity shown and taught by our Saviour, and which the missionaries *pretend* to preach? I do not lose sight of the fact that a Chinese woman marrying a foreigner takes his nationality, and *vice versâ*. At the same time I should have thought the Mission would have had a sufficiently high opinion of a convert who had been with them for seven years, at least, to have taken the couple into the Fold and used their labours for Christ's sake. Thanking you very much and hoping to hear others' views,

I am, etc.,

An Englishwoman.

12th September.

To the Editor of the

North-China Daily News.

Sir,—Such a matter of daily occurrence as marriage has become the problem of the day. Why is this? Simply because the matrimony has joined a Mongolian and a Caucasian. Many discussions have made their appearance already and still more, it seems, are pressing. From those I have seen there are two points looked upon the subject. The dispute gives another instance of that of colour of chameleon of which every schoolboy is well acquainted with. One takes this subject from the side of Christianity while the others from national feeling. It is quite beyond question, that any man of common sense can distinguish the religious from the others by these correspondents, those whose words appear at the side of these newly married couple are the Christians, and those against it are not. Perhaps among the latter, we can find some baptised and called Christians. But these are not true Christians, because if they are so, they are unbelieving what they think believing. As Christians, those lately joined have done right. Every page of the Holy Scripture can't find them to be sinners. The opponents are patriotic men. They are ashamed of marrying one of their class to one who belongs to the class of race so degraded and so despised. They should stand with hard heart towards those whose conduct brings disgrace upon them. In a few words, whether the world is to be reigned by Christianity or by patriotism settles the present problem.

I am, etc.;

A Japanese.

13th September.

To the Editor of the

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

SIR,—The objections of many missionaries, and perhaps of others, to the "missionary mixed marriage" are based not on the fact that it is a mixed marriage, but on the fact that the condition of woman, *in the present state of Chinese Society*, is a degraded condition. It is not a question of difference of blood, but of differing views of the marriage bond. Christian teaching has not yet appreciably affected Chinese views on this subject. Therefore we are very sorry to see such marriages.

Mixed marriages where the husband is a Westerner ought to be open to no objection, if the wife is capable of being a true helpmeet to her husband.

I write this short explanation with gratitude to "A Chinese" for the kindly way in which he has expressed his difficulties.

I am, etc.,

A MISSIONARY.

11th September.

To the Editor of the

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

SIR,—A great deal has been written on the above subject by Chinese, Englishmen, Japanese, and others. If I may be allowed to express the opinions of my countrymen I should say that the *feelings* of the newly married couple might be respected, and that they now be left alone. They are probably happy enough for the present and the future result of matrimony is generally considered problematical.

I am, etc.

A TURK.

14th September.

To the Editor of the

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

SIR,—When I ventured to ask for space in your valuable paper to express some views on the "Mixed Missionary Marriage" I did not think of again asking your indulgence for a similar favour.

Since the publication of my letter, several others have been published on the subject, some of which are very sensible while some are wanting in the tone and temperament that commend what is written to the consideration of the sensible.

In one letter it is asserted that upon the death of a Chinese his relatives can sell his widow to whomsoever and for whatsoever purpose they please. It is well-known to all who have even an elementary knowledge of Chinese laws that the Tatsing code expressly condemns to exile anyone who interferes with a widow against her wishes, and there are many monuments in China to the memory of those widows who remained faithful and loyal after the death of their husbands; and so it appears that instead of widows in China having no rights there is a public law which protects them and a public sentiment which erects monuments to perpetuate the example of their virtues and good deeds.

Chinese law does not allow anyone to have more than one wife, and the wife of a Chinese is also protected by law. If custom has sanctioned the system of concubinage it has never dethroned the wife from the first and controlling place she occupies in the family household. In countries in which concubinage is not tolerated either by custom or law, can it be said that husbands always remain loyal to their marriage vows? But concubinage is the relic of a custom which it is hoped missionaries and others may eradicate in time, though possibly it originated in the idea that it might bring greater happiness and comfort to the wife to have before her the conduct of her husband and to know with whom he was associating, than to spend sleepless nights of unhappiness, caused by his absence from her side and ignorance of the reason of his desertion of her.

There are as few causes for divorce in the laws of China as will be found in the laws of other countries, and this fact proves the estimation in which marriage is held, as do the causes, the condemnation for unfaithfulness and wanting in filial piety on the part of the wife; and wife-beating is certainly not confined exclusively to China, for I have lived abroad several years and can testify that in all countries there are many men brutal enough to strike the women to whom they have sacredly pledged their love and protection.

In one of the letters under review, I was reminded that I was not in heaven, a reminder that was made unnecessary by the spirit of the letter in which it appeared, for I shall not expect to find anywhere about the Throne of God that class of missionary whose mercenary motives are so obvious as to convince that they love real estate first and God afterwards; I agree with one of my critics, that distinctions of race exist on earth, but the constitutions and laws of many countries have abolished race distinctions, and the law of God has never recognised any distinction on account of race or colour.

It is admitted that the Chinese who married the foreign lady has been associated with foreign missionaries for seven years, and if such long association and the education in consequence have not taught him that concubinage was wrong it might be well for those who subscribe millions of dollars for missionary work in China to look into the effectiveness of that work. A Chinese who has been under missionary tutelage and influence for seven years marries a foreign missionary lady who, for many years, has been engaged in the same work, and then because of such marriage missionaries occupy the space of your valuable paper with indignant protests and the most ill-omened prophecies for the future of the woman.

I think the alarm is unnecessary; the opinions given against mixed marriages would be more effective if given in the nature of advice, well considered, and in the true spirit of Christianity, which teaches toleration and magnanimity as cardinal virtues in all things.

The sermon of Christ on the Mount should be more carefully studied by those gentlemen of the ministerial cloth who would kick out of doors a lady because she married the man of her love and choice, and also this man, the associate for several years of these ministerial gentlemen. Christ never taught any such inhumanity, and human beings, whether on earth or in Heaven, will not approve of a cause so unfeeling and wanting in manly sympathy. When a Chinese is admitted into the social circle of foreign missionaries; lives for seven years under the daily influence of social equality; is taught that the God he should worship allows of no distinctions and receives all as his children; and then when he practically illustrates the doctrine and teachings of his surroundings, what are we to think when he is turned upon by his teachers and associates with abuse and ostracism?

As stated in my first letter, I believe in the efficacy of missionary work and am a supporter of it, and that is why I deprecate sentiments and conduct which injure and retard the progress of the good work.

I am, etc.,

A CHINESE.

14th September.

To the Editor of the

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

SIR,—The letter on the above subject in your issue of the 8th instant by "A Chinese" is apparently written by a Chinese man or a Chinese woman who has been educated in America. There are marks of foreign assistance in the preparation of the letter and it would not take more than one guess to locate its author.

The letter, which is in the nature of a sermon, is wide of the point and misses entirely the important features of the question. All missionaries and most Europeans and Americans agree with the text at the head of the letter and yet with perfect consistency strongly approve the action of the C.I.M. in suspending the woman whose case is under discussion.

The whole gist of the letter is that missionaries preach the universal brotherhood of man and then suspend a woman who marries a Chinese, and therefore they are inconsistent. Let me ask the writer in passing how exclusion from the ranks of the C.I.M. necessarily consigns a person to "outer darkness," whatever is meant by this term, or to "peremptory ostracism," another unusual phrase?

The writer has quite ignored the fact that the woman in question broke a solemn pledge given in writing not to proceed further with her engagement. In spite of her written promise and without any warning she violated the confidence reposed in her by the Mission, and was very properly suspended for serious breach of the rules and regulations as well as of her own pledge. The C.I.M. took, it appears to me, the only course open to them.

No Christian man or woman questions for a moment the holiness of the alliance entered into in marriage, upon which "A Chinese" dwells so strongly. The point the author should have discussed was as to what parties are to enter into such an alliance. To some matrimonial alliances Scripture is distinctly opposed, but I grant the restriction would not seem to apply here.

The whole point lies in this; should a foreign woman marry a Chinese? The answer in this case has I take it been most rightly given in the negative. Whilst the principle is correct yet St. Paul more than once explicitly states it is not always expedient to insist on one's rights. It must be remembered China is a semi-barbarous country—even "A Chinese" will, I suppose, admit this. A foreign woman who marries a Chinese must descend to his level. The entire environment of the man and woman differ *toto cœlo*. There is scarcely a thought or manner of life which they hold in common. We have known of too many foreign girls who have married Chinese and lived out their short life in misery and suffering, a slave to the Chinese husband and mother-in-law. She is absolutely helpless. This remembrance alone makes us shudder at any foreign lady subjecting herself to such a life.

"A Chinese" wishes to brush aside the mercenary feature of the case, but this cannot be permitted. There are so many obvious advantages to the Chinese in a mercenary sense to be derived from such an alliance that it is likely to be one of the first considerations in an ordinary Chinese mind.

And what about the offspring? If any foreign woman can calmly contemplate bringing children into the world and bringing them up in poverty in inland China, like the heathen children around them and with practically no future assured, that in itself is an indication that the woman lacks prudence and good sense, to put it in the very mildest form, and should be sufficient to forbid the marriage.

The reverse case named—that of a foreigner marrying a Chinese woman—is the same in principle but totally different in practice. In this case the man raises the woman to a higher level and there are none of the unfortunate features presented by the previous case. Though I confess in the present state of affairs I think in nine cases out of ten it would be wiser to avoid such alliances.

It must be remembered there are hundreds of foreign young ladies in the interior and if it is understood that anybody can join the Church and then as a prize obtain, for the asking, a foreign woman as a wife the position of these ladies will be dangerous and uncomfortable in the extreme. For the above and many other reasons I take it this foreign woman and the Chinese helper are improper persons to enter into the marriage contract.

With perfect consistency therefore missionaries can continue to teach the "universal brotherhood of man" and strongly forbid any such alliance as the one now discussed. It is quite probable that in the years to come when China is Christianised, that is, civilised, and the present conditions changed, all the objections now existing will be removed, but at this stage it is a very foolish and dangerous custom to encourage.

What the last paragraph has to do with the case one fails to see. What have Kuling, and the Kuling Municipal Council and its taxes, and the salaries it pays to its manager and officers to do with the mixed missionary marriage in North China? Has "A Chinese" desired to obtain a lot at Kuling and failed because Chinese may not hold property there, and hence sought the opportunity to give a spiteful slap and misrepresent facts at the same time? Enclosing my card,

I am, etc,

Consistent.

[We do not propose to insert any more letters on this subject.—Ed.]

Miscellaneous.

GREAT FIRE IN SHANGHAI.

A GODOWN BURNT OUT.

A fire of the most alarming character broke out shortly before nine o'clock on Saturday night whereby a godown on the Kinleeyuen wharf belonging to the China Merchants' Steam Navigation Company and its valuable contents were destroyed. The premises were at the far end of the whole block of godowns, each section so to speak being shut off from the others by means of fire walls and the fire would appear to have originated in the upper storey. The alarm was raised and the Fire Brigade was soon on the scene but for a time little headway could be made on account of the facilities at hand being most inadequate and it was only with difficulty that the stream could be played on to the roof. Shortly afterwards however the whole of the various companies with their engines arrived and were stationed on the pontoon facing the burning buildings from whence a good powerful stream was directed on to the flames. Difficulty too was experienced in entering the premises, the doors being locked, and it was not until the iron facings of the doors and windows melted that the firemen could get at the seat of the fire. In less than ten minutes after the outbreak the flames shot through the roof shedding a lurid light over the shipping in the harbour and it was at once apparent that the fire had got a very strong hold and that it was impossible to save this particular section of the block. The firemen consequently turned their attention to preventing it spreading and were greatly aided in their task by the existence of the fire wall referred to. Detachments of men-o'-warsmen from H.M.S. *Phœnix* and a Japanese gunboat in the harbour were landed with lines and grappling irons to assist in extinguishing the flames and to preserve order, the crowd which had collected in the vicinity of the conflagration being enormous, whilst the heat given out was intense. At eleven o'clock no apparent check had been made on the ravages of the fire the wooden interior of the building together with the fact that the cargo stowed therein mainly consisting of chests of tea, cotton, etc., forming ready fuel and the efforts of the brigade were more than hopeless. They succeeded however in preventing it spreading to the adjoining warehouse where there was also stored merchandise of a like character. The fire was not really under control until late into the night when the bulk of the firemen retired but even yesterday water was still being played on to the ruins. The fire float which was also requisitioned did excellent service when it after long exertions got to the spot, throwing a couple of powerful jets. The extent of the damage is not really known as yet but it is expected to considerably exceed Tls. 100,000. The buildings are insured in the North British and Mercantile Insurance Company while as regards the destroyed cargo quite a number of insurance corporations are involved. The cause of the outbreak is not definitely known but is supposed to be due to spontaneous combustion of cotton.

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE MARGARET WILLIAMSON HOSPITAL REBUILDING FUND.

	Tls.	$
Previously acknowledged......	500.00	1,946.20
H. G................................		25.00
Anonymous Well-Wisher......		5.00
A Poor Man...		3.80
S.M.B.		15.00
R.W.P......		15.00
S. B. Bhabha		10.00
Total	500.00	2,020.00

SECRETARY K'ANG AND REFORM.

It is reported from Peking that the now famous Reform Leader, Mr. Secretary Kang Yu-wei, of the Board of Works, who was recently appointed by the Emperor to come to Shanghai to take over charge of the editing of the *Chinese Progress* magazine at this port in order to save him from the enemies he has made, will, after all, be retained at Peking, his aid being prayed for by H.E. Li Tuan-fên, Vice-President of the Board of Punishments, promoted the other day (7th) to be President of the Board of Rites *vice* Hsü Ying-kuei cashiered. We learn with pleasure, that Mr. Kang Yu-wei is not now alone in his earnest endeavours to effect reforms in this Empire. His followers now are said to consist of more than one-half of the Hanlins and Censors and *literati* in the capital, as well as a whole host of Board secretaries whose views have recently become even more advanced than his, and whose earnestness of purpose has been such as even to defy the opposition of their more conservative superior officers. As an instance, one can scarcely wonder at the surprise and disgust of the Presidents and Vice-Presidents of the Board of Rites when they read their subordinate, Mr. Wang's, memorial suggesting, amongst other reforms, that the Emperor and the whole country abolish the *queue* and present Chinese dress for the fashions of the West! Another was to suggest that the country embrace the Christian religion as the State religion, and still another was an advice to his Majesty to take the Empress Dowager on a visit to the Japanese Mikado, in order to see for themselves the pitiful state of China as compared with Japan, which had thrown away the obsolete customs of a by-gone age and adopted everything Western. "An education of the eyes, by such a trip, is worth a hundred thousand suggestions on paper."

Naturally these revolutionary suggestions—according to the lights of these Presidents and Vice-Presidents—quite stunned the readers of the above noted memorial; and we can therefore well understand the anger and chagrin felt when, in spite of exhortations and strong minatory language, Mr. Wang, their subordinate officer, refused point blank either to modify or to withdraw his paper; maintaining his right to demand that his memorial be handed, intact, to the Throne by his superior officers, the Presidents and Vice-Presidents of the Board to which he belonged. Huai Ta-pu, the Manchu President, deeming first his position as a senior member of the Imperial Clan, and next as an Assistant Grand Secretary, quite safe for him to demand the punishment of the refractory subordinate, persuaded his colleagues to join him in a general denunciation, although Hsü Ying-kuei, the Chinese President, having already been denounced on a former occasion by some Censors for trying to do this same thing—preventing the presentation of memorials—from which he had been warned by the Emperor to desist, tried to get out of signing the report of his colleagues. So also Tsêng Kuang-han (Earl Weiyi) the Chinese Junior Vice-President, who being but newly appointed to his post and a timid man to boot, did not wish to be mixed up with the affair; but Huai Ta-pu, backed by the other two Manchu Vice-Presidents, who are also members of the Imperial Clan, laughed their dissentient Chinese colleagues' fears away, feeling sure of ultimate victory against a paltry third-class secretary.

The result of this episode we all know; and it has made us believe that after all his Majesty Kuang Hsü is so earnest to reform the country by gathering around him a large body of young, enthusiastic, and as earnest workers as himself, that he "sat on" his own kinsmen, men of great power and influence, in favour of a hitherto unknown and insignificant third-class secretary. It is further averred that his Majesty, in issuing his edict handing over the delinquent Presidents and Vice-Presidents of the Board of Rites to the Board of Civil Appointments for the determination of adequate penalties, called the two Presidents of the latter to him and personally enjoined upon them to give an impartial and legal report as to the punishment due to the delinquents for what they had done, warning them that they would receive the same punishments meted out to the Board of Rites' officers if it were found that the Civil Appointments Board had been influenced by a desire to save their fellow Ministers and make their punishment as light as possible.

Thus admonished the Board of Civil Appointments recommended with commendable alacrity that the delinquent Ministers be "degraded three steps of rank and transferred to posts equivalent to their lowered status." This his Majesty evidently considered too light, in the face of the crisis the country was passing through, and so, as we already know, altered it to a command that "the delinquents be cashiered and dismissed from the service." With the Emperor, the fountain of honour and all official perferment, openly and honestly in their favour, it is not strange that the small party of Reformers, hitherto led by Mr. Secretary Kang Yu-wei, for whose safety on account of his advanced views there were considerable apprehensions, has recently received such an accession to its ranks that even the most powerful Minister of the Crown now fears to oppose the Reform movement, especially as it is now decreed by the Emperor that "all memorials—no matter from whom—are to be henceforth handed to the Throne, intact and unopened, on pain of dire punishment."

ROWING NOTES.

On Thursday evening was a busy one at the Boathouse, and the merry chatter and aimless banter of the rowing man was pleasant to listen to; the oarsman, although silent while enjoying his sport, gives more vent to his feelings when his practice row is finished than perhaps any other sportsman.

The rowing has progressed immensely during the past week and I counted no less than six fours which evidently intend competing for the International Fours; the cup presented by the Rowing Club being responsible for this keen spirit. The Fours at present in work are the English, Scotch, Irish, American, German, and Danish, and should they all turn up at the starting post some very fine racing will be witnessed.

The English are the only crew who have so far gone out in their eight, the Irish confining their work to tubbing in fours, which at the present period of the training is the very best thing for them.

Of the "Fours" the Scotch were coached by our old friend James Hall, the Americans by Gilchrist, the Danes by Wolder, the Germans I missed; it is too early yet to criticise the crews, who are really only in their tubbing stage; but anon a few old oarsmen intend chartering a launch in order to obtain a better idea of the merits of the different crews, and they will be accompanied by

Too Old to Row.

CONGESTED CONDITION OF THE YARN MARKET.

SHORT TIME IN BOMBAY MILLS RECOMMENDED.

The following telegrams have been interchanged by the Chinese merchants dealing in Indian yarn and the Bombay Millowners' Association, through the medium of Mr. H. M. Mehta. The reasons assigned by the Chinese merchants for making the request conveyed in their telegram of working the mills in Bombay short time has been principally the heavy accumulation of Indian threads in this market and in Shanghai without having sufficient outlets open for their immediate consumption owing to the rebellion in Kuangsi and Kuangtung. They emphasise the urgency of the measure and advocate against the present almost unprecedentedly congested position by the computation of stocks as under:—

Unsold stock in Hongkong ...	55,000	bales.
Sold stock in Hongkong	42,000	,,
Unsold stock in Shanghai ...	32,000	,,
Sold stock in Shanghai	18,000	,,

These figures speak for themselves, and as the uncertainty of the duration and course of the rebellion in the two Kuangs increases, the demoralisation in the principal markets is *pari passu* on the increase, and unless the curtailment of arrivals transpires the likelihood is that the markets will further get into demoralisation to the serious detriment of the yarn trade in India, China, and Japan.

TELEGRAMS.

To Bombay Millowners' Association, Bombay—Chinese merchants unitedly urge necessity mills working short time—Rebellion Kuangsi Kuangtung seriously interfering—closing outlets. Stocks sold unsold one lac Hongkong—half Shanghai—Urgency retarding shipments extreme.

H. M. Mehta.

8th September, 1898.

To H. M. Mehta, Hongkong.

Committee will consider question of short time provided China and Japan mills cooperate.

Millowners.

9th September.

—*Hongkong Daily Press.*

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THE BRITISH EMPIRE,

BY THE RIGHT HON. SIR CHARLES W. DILKE, BART., M.P.

(Author of "Greater Britain," &c.)

VII.

AFRICA.

It is perhaps convenient to treat Africa in its connection with the British Empire by itself instead of picking out the two self-governing colonies—the Cape and Natal, and then treating the rest of Africa under the heading of Crown Colonies. The Governor of the Cape is High Commissioner in South Africa, and has great powers over the Crown Colonies and Protectorates, south of the Zambesi. The Chartered Company which rules Rhodesia, south of the Zambesi, under his supervision, has dominions and influence north of the Zambesi, over protectorates—one of which, though administered by the Foreign Office, is virtually a colony; and thus we are brought northward to the former dominions of the Sultan of Zanzibar, half of which are now also British, and, like Nyassaland, under the Foreign Office for the present. The four Crown Colonies of the West Coast of Africa, with the Protectorates and Spheres of Influence connected with them, are detached from our South African and East African possessions, but the problems which the possession of them involves are somewhat similar to those presented by some of our South and East African dependencies. Our relations with the French over our supposed Sphere of Influence on the White Nile, which connects itself with our Uganda and British East African Protectorates, are inextricably entwined with our relations with the French in the back country of Lagos and the Niger sphere in the direction of Lake Tchad. Our White Nile Sphere of Influence, which is a somewhat shadowy extension, to the north-west, of our British East African Protectorates, bring us also into a conflict of tendencies with Abyssinia which is the neighbour of our Somaliland Protectorate, of which indeed a slice has just been ceded to Abyssinia. This Protectorate is under Aden—which is Indian, as a statutory part of the Government of Bombay. Three African islands are also British dependencies,—St. Helena, which is a colony, Ascension, which is rated as a ship, being under the management of the Admiralty, and Socotra (on the other side of Africa, at the entrance to the Gulf of Aden), which is a dependency of Aden.

The first observation which occurs to one to make upon our heterogeneous dominions in Africa is that some simplicity might be brought into our administration, both at home and across the seas, if the whole of them were declared colonies or colonial protectorates, and placed under the Colonial Office. The present distinctions are impossible to justify, as they are difficult to explain. The complexity introduced into the administration by Mr. Rhodes and his shareholders as regards their interests south of the Zambesi, being dealt with by the Colonial Office, and as regards their interests north of the Zambesi dealt with by the Foreign Office, is amazing. The Foreign Office has in British Central Africa the administration of what is called a Protectorate, where there is in its central portions no vestige of any native government to protect, and what is in fact an ordinary colony, as regards which there is no conceivable reason to be suggested why it should not be under the Colonial Office rather than under the Foreign Office. In Uganda the Foreign Office has had to deal with questions of administration, with risings, and with the conduct of wars, for which it is not organised, and which distract it from its diplomatic work. The Niger Company and the Oil Rivers Protectorate have hitherto been under the Foreign Office, while Lagos which is mixed up with them in its interests, has been under the Colonial Office. It is understood that in recent military operations the sphere of the Niger Company has been virtually removed to Colonial Office control. Negotiations are on foot, though this was denied in the House of Commons as late as April, for the purchase of the territorial and administrative rights of the Niger Company; and when the purchase has been carried through, no doubt the whole of the district, including the Oil Rivers Protectorate, will be transferred to the Colonial Office, and possibly even brought under a single administration with the colony of Lagos.

Cape Colony, by far the larger of the two self-governing colonies in Africa is, to a great extent, if not mainly, Dutch. Natal, the other, is intensely British. In Cape Colony a happy fusion of the political aspirations of the races had come about, as in Canada, before the Jameson raid, which put a sudden end for a time to these good relations. The effect, however, of the raid is wearing off, and there are already signs that the violent suspicions of the extreme Dutch, on the one hand, and the somewhat blatant imperialism of the extreme British element, on the other, are again giving way to a more reasonable consideration of common interests. The South African Republic, or Tranvaal as it is commonly called, is, of course, a self-governing Dutch-Afrikander state,—absolutely uncontrolled as regards its purely domestic affairs, except by a vestige of interference in some matters which concern the aboriginal natives, but unable to make treaties or to be officially represented at foreign Courts, and, in other works, subject to a general control, on our part, of its foreign relations. Its situation may be compared in this respect with that occupied towards India by the States of Afghanistan and Nepal. The Orange Free State is a Dutch Afrikander Republic, still more independent, constitutionally and theoretically speaking, of us, but not disturbed to the same extent by the presence in its midst of a fiercely British minority, as is the Transvaal. and, therefore, on the whole, as regards its rulers, more friendly to us I have called the extreme British element in the Transvaal a minority, although I am aware that many think, mistakenly, that it is a majority in that country which is kept down by force. The foreign or non-Dutch element in the Transvaal is very large and very rich, but the dominant sentiment is not pro-British, although it is anti-Dutch. The balance of the scale is turned by a strong American and Jewish element, which desires to retain a republican constitution and to avoid merger in a British colony; but which is even more opposed than is the purely British element to the old-fashioned Dutch.

Powerful among the British in South Africa, Mr. Rhodes, virtually governing Rhodesia and influential north of the Zambesi through his telegraphs and his subsidies, looks forward to the connection of British Central Africa, by Lake Tanganyika, into Lake Nyanza, and so with Uganda, and by our shadowy White Nile Sphere of Influence, with Egypt. By a Convention which ceded the colony of Heligoland to Germany, and is known as the Convention of July, 1890, relating to Africa and Heligoland, Germany was brought by Lord Salisbury to Lake Tanganyika and Lake Victoria Nyanza, and to join the Congo State on a common frontier between those two lakes near what was formerly called the Stevenson Road,—thus blocking out Mr. Rhodes from the accomplishment of his Cape to Cairo project Lord Rosebery and Lord Kimberley afterwards attempted to lease a strip from the Congo State, which would have given us, subject to the terms of this lease, an All-British road, but the Germans interfered in a most unfriendly fashion and forced the Congo State to destroy this Convention. So that it is hard to see how, except by mere leave of Germany, or of the Congo State, Mr. Rhodes can hope to pass from British Central Africa to British Uganda.

These difficulties of South and Central Africa offer little or no present risk of war. But the same could not till lately be said of the difficulties on the West, nor can it be said of those further north. The British East Africa Protectorate has no northern frontier. We came to an understanding with Italy for a common frontier as far as Italy was concerned, but the Italians have been driven by Abyssinia from the greater portion of their sphere, and our own recent treaty with the Emperor Menelik of Ethiopia has not established even a *modus vivendi*, between us and him on this, the more difficult and the more important, as well as by far the longest, portion of our common frontier. According to the colouring of British maps, British East Africa reaches to a British sphere composed of the former Equatorial provinces of Egypt. But our pretensions to this sphere are ridiculed by some of the other Powers. A portion of it indeed is now occupied by the Congo State under lease from us, and this lease has been recognised by France and may be looked upon as solidly established: but north of this again a French expedition has seated itself upon the streams flowing down into the Nile in one of the Equatorial Provinces of Egypt now coloured pink upon our maps, and the French assert that they have as good a right to be there in the name of Egypt as we possibly can have. Moreover we are not there and never have been. From the north the Egyptian Sirdar is pressing southwards, with British troops added to his Egyptian forces, for the purpose of reasserting the authority of the Khedive as against the Dervishes. If on the arrival of his steamers on the White Nile, he finds the French seated upon that river, it is difficult to see how a European Conference is to be avoided, or to prophesy what the outcome of that Conference may be. If, on the other hand, the French expedition is not more strongly established than we suppose, it will probably find it necessary to retire before the flying bands of Dervishes, dispersed by General Kitchener, and we shall then discover that the Marchand and Liotard expeditions are "private expeditions," paid for out of the funds of the French colonial party, although exclusively officered by officers of that admirable force—the *Infanterie de la Marine et des Colonies*, commonly known in France as "The Dog Fish."

The marvellous activity of the French has brought them into conflict with us not only as regards the country south-west of Khartoum, but as regards the back country of Lagos and of the Gold Coast: the back country of our other two colonies is already gone,—swallowed up by France beyond return. Starting from Senegambia on the West Coast, the French, with extraordinary vigour, have penetrated south-east to the Lower Niger, and due east almost to the Nile. Marvellous as have been our own exploits in all parts of the world we can hardly show any enterprise to compare with that of the French colonial forces. The future of our Niger sphere must be important, but it hardly looks as though, in face of French development, it could ever lead to the foundation of an African empire in the least comparable to our Indian Empire. The probability is that the expectations which have been formed with regard to the future of Africa will be a disappointment to all the Powers concerned. The Germans have hopelessly failed to make much of their three chief colonies, and the French have been pouring out money and French life like water without much hope of a tangible return. The Congo State is beginning to make money, but by a system of Government (if such a name can be applied to it) so ruthless and extortionate that we have some ground for congratulation that, whatever, may be alleged against our rule in parts of Africa, we at all events are far less bad than our Belgian rivals. While, then, I look forward to a great development of trade in our Niger sphere and to some possible development of stock-farming in a portion of the high country which lies at the west of the British East Africa Protectorate, and at the east of Uganda, as well as to a steady development of British South Africa, I cannot profess to believe that any other portion of Africa is likely to show the material prosperity which has been attained by the marvellously-fertile irrigated strip along the Nile which forms the Khediviate of Egypt.

The future of Africa unfortunately can hardly be contemplated without the expectation of eventual war. The divisions which the recent partition of Africa among the Powers has brought about are too purely artificial to survive in a great war where the command of the sea is seriously disputed between ourselves and a Coalition. The future of Africa will one day be settled, but that future is never likely to produce such spheres of trade as those which India and which South America present.

Charles W. Dilke.

WHICH KING, BEZONIAN?

Lord Salisbury's very remarkable statement upon Chinese policy makes it clearer than ever that we are in the enviable position where those behind cry forward, while those before cry back. The Premier's reply to Lord Kimberley was in his most oracular vein. Oracles are perplexing. They may mean anything or nothing according to circumstances. The real ground of complaint against the Cabinet—and Lord Salisbury's speech is far from doing anything to remove it—is that there have been too many oracles and not enough meaning. After Lord Salisbury's reply to Lord Kimberley, we are still as you were. Nobody quite knows what the Government means. Nobody is quite sure that they mean anything, That state of mind has been the essential weakness of English foreign policy for many years. In China, we shall find it in the end unusually disadvantageous and unusually dangerous. It looks safe. It is not. Lord Salisbury still believes that the policy of the "open door" is practical and can be maintained. We do not think there are many European statesmen who are of Lord Salisbury's opinion. We are afraid that the facts are against Lord Salisbury's opinion; and though *tant pis pour les faits* is delightful as persiflage, it is depressing as policy. Everybody admits that the "open door" is the theory which ought to prevail. Unfortunately, we have to deal with things, not as they ought to be, but as they are. We did not desire the division of Africa. But Africa has been divided. We do not desire the disintegration of China. But all the probabilities are that China will be disintegrated. For those who imagine that Russia in Manchuria and Germany in Shantung can prevent their own expansion at the expense of such a helpless and inchoate authority as that of Peking, history simply does not exist. European encroachment upon territories that cannot resist it, goes on as surely as water runs down a hill. We are in the position of proclaiming the integrity of China while other Powers have already begun to walk off with the pieces. The ideal of a complete community of opportunities over the whole of China is perfect as an ideal according to the Treaty of Tientsin. But Lord Salisbury himself has gone out of his way to recognise the province of Shantung as German territory. As the Siberian railway approaches Port Arthur and Talienwan, the provinces of Manchuria will become Russian territory. Those provinces have become the private apartments of our rivals, and their "open doors," even as long as they remain so, which will be in the entire discretion of our opponents, are not, as a matter of hard fact, a free means of ingress for British enterprise. As a consequence of the encroachments in the North of China, we intimated our intention to regard the Yangtze Valley as a sphere of which we would not allow any other Power to take possession. By that act, we recognised the theory of private apartments in spite of ourselves. But while British enterprise does not pretend any longer to look for scope in Manchuria and Shantung, Lord Salisbury sees no objection at all to the extension in the Yangtze Valley of foreign enterprise under the encouragemen of foreign governments. Nothing will disabuse the public mind of the feeling that this is a proposition of tails they win, heads we lose. There was only one way of ensuring the "open door." It was to intimate at the beginning that we should not allow the territory of China to be encroached upon by any Power, without our consent and simultaneous compensation. We cannot oust Germany from Shantung or Russia from the Gibraltar of the northern inland sea of China. But we could still give a guarantee to maintain against all comers the territorial integrity of the remainder of China. That would be an enormous responsibilty. But it would be the only means of giving any practical significance to our theory of the "open door." Of course we shall not give any guarantee of the kind: and there is nothing to prevent other provinces outside those adjacent to the Yangtze river from sharing the fate of Shantung. Whether the door remains open in any particular place will depend upon what other Powers think we are prepared to do at any particular moment. Nothing is so likely to lead to serious complications as uncertainty like this. We respect the privacy of other people's apartments, and the only door obviously "open" is our door. The Celestial Kingdom—we may say it without impiety—has many mansions, and our rivals are already inside some of them. In the end, we shall have to put the keys of others in our own pocket.

Whatever doubt there may be about the soundness of the Prime Minister's theories, the Government has made to Peking two definite communications which will be of the utmost importance if they are boldly backed. Sir Claude Macdonald has been instructed

(1) "To press for the insertion in every concession granted by the Chinese Government of proper provision for the equal treatment of all nationals and trade;" and

(2) "To inform the Chinese Government that her Majesty's Government will support them in resisting any Power which commits an act of aggression on China on account of China granting concessions to make or support any railway or public work, to a British subject.

Both these instructions have been extorted by the minatory proceedings of M. Pavloff. The first will be important if successful. The second will be of much greater importance if it is firmly supported. "The open door," it must be remembered, is our theory. There is no such international sanction for it as for the doctrines of *hinterland* and effective occupation laid down with reference to Africa by the Berlin Conference. Other Powers have not the slightest objection to recognise the excellence of the principle that the door ought to remain open in China at large. But no other Power has the slightest intention of respecting the principle of the "open door," when that principle can be evaded to the particular advantage of any other Power. The struggle for concessions and railways between M. Pavloff and Sir Claude Macdonald—

carries its own lesson on its face. Let us recapitulate the most recent developments. In the contract concluded between the Chinese Government and the Russo-Chinese Bank for the construction of the line striking south-west from Peking to Taiyuanfu, it is provided that where foreign material is used it shall be exclusively French or Russian. The key is turned in that particular door. Sir Claude Macdonald has been instructed to oppose any more concessions with a boycotting provision. We shall see how far that will be successful. But even if Sir Claude Macdonald should succeed in keeping such provisions out of the face of the concessions, there will be nothing to prevent the actual boycott of British material by concessions depending upon the patronage of the Russo-Chinese Bank and the embassies of the Dual Alliance. This is another instance of the difficulty, as a matter of commercial fact, of keeping open any doors except those of which we ourselves hold the private key. The more serious phase of the situation is indicated by the pledge given to China, through Sir Claude Macdonald, that we shall resist the aggression of any Power if it is in consequence of concessions made to us. That, at first sight, seems a very responsible declaration. As a matter of fact, it does not even refer to the essential difficulty. We say what we shall do if, after we have secured concessions in spite of the threats of Russia, Russia should proceed to execute her threats. But that is precisely what Russia never has the remotest intention to do. She plays a game of bluff. Her aim is to prevent concessions to British subjects by means of threats which she does not intend to execute. Sir Claude Macdonald's apparently momentous pledge refers, in reality, to a contingency not likely to arise. But if M. Pavloff should succeed in browbeating the Chinese Government by means of mere threats, and if Russia prevents concessions to British subjects, by that means, it does not appear that we are to do anything. Even Sir Claude Macdonald's declaration, which is good as far as it goes, may mean anything or nothing according as Ministers choose what it shall mean in any particular emergency. The proof of the pudding is in the eating. Lord Salisbury seems indirectly to confirm the accuracy of the statement that Russia has not withdrawn her opposition to the loan by the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank on account of the extended railway to Newchwang. It was in connection with this loan that M. Pavloff made his outrageous threats and Sir Claude Macdonald has now made a reply of a certain impressiveness. It remains to be seen whether or not the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank will secure the concession.

The least satisfactory part of Lord Salisbury's statement is that in which he definitely declines to take any sort of initiative in the question of railway extension in China. The Premier declares that to lead or to guarantee private commercial enterprise in any way would be wholly against tradition. England is not France for nothing, and tradition counts for as much here as it counts for little there. Tradition in itself and in its place is very well. Unfortunately, there is no tradition for anything in the present situation in China. Other Powers have not the same respect for tradition that we have in respect of an entirely new development of the world's affairs; and the venerable weapon against their methods is like bows and arrows against Maxim guns. Nobody doubts for a moment that British capital would be forthcoming at any moment if our Government, like others, had the vigilance to indicate opportunities and the determination to secure them. In contrast to Lord Salisbury's repudiation of responsibility, is the action of the German Government upon the most important railway concession that still remains undecided. The great trunk line from Tientsin to Chinkiang would practically connect Peking with Shanghai. If there is a railway in China that should be in British hands, it is this. The original *concessionaire* was a Chinese, but it was known, or should have been known, at every legation in Peking, that he was unable to find the money as the end of the stipulated time approached. Confronted with the probability of this concession falling in, the duty of the British Government, according to tradition and Lord Salisbury, was to do nothing; and to leave everything to private enterprise—which could not know anything of the matter. The action of the German Government was very different. Its traditions are Bismarckian, and happen to provide for such emergencies. Baron Heyking, the German Ambassador, began at once to press for the reversion of the Tientsin-Chinkiang railway, to the German interest. Baron Heyking was perfectly aware that this action would secure German capital its opportunity. But, it was exactly in accordance with the Premier's reading of the duty of the Government, that in the absence of any Ministerial initiative in English interests, English capital would have had no opportunity whatever of bidding for a concession of the very highest importance. We need not multiply cases. It takes Governments to deal with Governments. British capital is at a disadvantage when it is left more or less to itself against foreign capital *plus* foreign Governments. Nor is Lord Salisbury's depreciation of the strategical importance of Chinese railways very convincing. Nothing can be much more certain than that an Indo-China railway of the future, between Burma and the Yangtze, will be a link in Imperial connections as necessary as the Suez Canal.—*Newcastle Daily Chronicle.*

THE PRESIDENT'S PARAMOUNT DUTY.

The American nation has the right to expect that the President will exact a full equivalent from Spain for our sacrifices made. No sentimental thought should have any room in the conditions of peace imposed by us. The only considerations worthy of statesmanship are the future requirements of the United States, modified solely by expediency. In order to impress the President's mind and make it responsive to proper suggestions, it is our duty to call to his attention the many grave mistakes previously committed by him and his Cabinet, when following his or its judgment. It would be unjust if we did not mention that the President as well as his Ministers have since endeavoured to do their duty conscientiously, their efforts and abilities, however, often falling short of the necessary requirements. Among the most serious shortcomings of our Government were:

1.—Postponement of hostilities till this Spring.

2.—Lack of ability in the State Department.

3.—Retention of a civilian as Secretary of War.

4.—Retention of a civilian as Secretary of the Navy.

5.—Lack of able technical advisers in all Departments.

Let us consider *seriatim* these charges and their consequences.

Ad. 1.—As early as last fall it was evident to everybody with the slightest military and diplomatic training, who had followed the course of events closely, that Spain was absolutely unable to crush the rebellion or that it would voluntarily evacuate Cuba, alternatives insisted upon by our Government. A postponement of action on our part till Spring was unadvisable for a number of reasons, but absolutely criminal in view of the danger of yellow fever to our army of invasion in tropical territory during the summer months. Each case of yellow fever among our troops is directly chargeable to the neglect or want of ability of the President. His eventual excuse, that it had been his intention to postpone the time for the commencement of operations till next fall, but that this plan had been forcibly changed by the *Maine* incident, is fallacious, as a statesman should take unexpected incidents into consideration.

Ad. 2.—The lack of ability in the State Department in our negotiations with Spain before the war had been so conspicuous, that any further reference to it is superfluous; the simple statement, that the nominal head of the Department was a mental wreck, being sufficient.

Ad. 3 & 4.—The retention of the Secretaries of War and of the Navy in their respective positions instead of replacing them by able Military and Naval officers and placing all subordinate departments of the Army and Navy directly under the control of such officers, was a crime. Directly traceable to this crime were the unpreparedness, inefficiency, and delays in the ordnance, equipment, commissariat, and medical bureaux, etc., and also the frictions between Army and Navy Commanders, all of them unpardonable offences and impossible under proper military chiefs.

Ad. 5.—While the President in the selection of Secretary Day, Assistant Secretary Moore, Capt. Mahan, etc., has made some excellent appointments, there is still a serious want of technical advisers in all departments, thus augmenting the dangers pointed out in the previous paragraph.

After this short review of the most glaring errors committed, we hope that the President will now rise to the occasion and insist upon the following:—

While no indemnity needs to be exacted, the terms of peace should include cession by Spain of

1. Cuba.
2. Porto Rico.
3. Ladrone Islands.
4. Caroline Islands.
5. Philippine Islands.

There is no necessity of divulging our ultimate intentions in regard to these territories at the present moment. Whether we will incorporate them by annexation into the United States of America, or grant them independence under our Protectorate, retaining only certain coaling stations and strategical and commercial advantages, is a question of the future, which under no circumstances should be influenced by the attitude of the Powers, for reasons often stated by us, but solely by our interests and the behaviour of the insurgents.

Two reasons of the highest statesmanship and morality compel us, however, to tear from Spain every vestige of its power and sovereignty over these Islands, namely, first, the future strategical and commercial requirements of the American Nation; and second, our obligation to protect our allies from Spain's vengeance.—*N. Y. Maritime Register.*

Holloway's Ointment and Pills.—Disease, of the skin.—No case of disease of the skins be its nature what it may, has failed to be benefited when these potent remedies have been properly applied. In scrofulous and scorbutic affections they are especially serviceable. Scurvy and eruptions, which had resisted all other modes of treatment and gradually become worse from year to year, have been completely cured by Holloway's cooling Ointment and purifying Pills, which root out the disease from the blood itself and save the constitution free from every morbid taint. In the nursery Holloway's Ointment should be ever at hand; it will give ease in sprains, contusions, burns, scalds, and infantile eruptions, and may always safely be applied by any ordinary attendant.

Law Reports.

H.B.M.'s SUPREME COURT.

Shanghai, 16th September.

Before F. S. A. Bourne, Esq., *Acting Chief Justice.*

R. *v.* Bithrey.

Charles Bithrey, cook of the s.v. *Dunfermline*, was indicted for the attempted murder of Edwin Poole, mate of the said vessel, whilst lying in the harbour of Shanghai on the 30th of August last, and further with wounding, with intent to commit grievous bodily harm.

The Jury was sworn as follows, Mr. R. W. Shaw, Mr. W. J. Tyack, Mr. E. H. Casey, Mr. A. Wright, and Mr. C. Mayne. Mr. J. Mousa and Mr. H. E. Hall were called but challenged.

Mr. H. P. Wilkinson, Crown Advocate, prosecuted and Mr. T. Morgan Phillips defended.

Mr. Wilkinson in opening the case said—May it please your Lordship, and gentlemen of the jury. The crime with which the prisoner stands charged is a serious one. In the indictment it is divided into two counts, one of which is known as an attempt to murder and the other is for wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm, and it is for you to say whether the prisoner has been guilty of either or neither of these offences. In this case the evidence I will call will prove that on the 30th of August the sailing ship the *Dunfermline* was lying in Shanghai harbour. There were no officers on board except the mate who is the wounded man, named Poole, and the boatswain who will give evidence.

The work on that day seems to have been pumping the vessel, she having made water in the recent gale. The evidence I shall call will be—as regards what happened that day—the boatswain and all the sailors who were there. The prisoner is the cook of the vessel and he also was on board that day. I will give evidence of bad feeling on that day between the cook and the wounded man Poole and of an altercation which took place about three o'clock on that day which resulted in the wounded man offering to settle any matter in dispute with the accused by fighting him. The accused did not do so but went back to his galley. There are certain statements which he made not only on that day but heretofore, and I will ask you to say that the accused intended to murder, or in the alternative to do grievous bodily harm to the wounded man. The evidence will consist of statements he has made to members of the crew amounting to this that someone or other would be done for or injured and a statement by the prisoner himself that he was a man of violence and that he had no objection to resort to violent measures to settle his differences.

Mr. Phillips—I don't see that on the depositions.

Mr. Wilkinson—That is the statement of one of the witnesses.

Mr. Phillips—But it is not evidence.

The Acting Chief Justice—I think you had better leave that out, Mr. Wilkinson.

Mr. Phillips—I most certainly think so.

Mr. Wilkinson—Very well then, it is unnecessary for the prosecution really. But on that day I say there was an altercation between the cook and the wounded man—about three o'clock. At or about five o'clock there is evidence that the cook went aft to the cabins at the after part part of the vessel where the mate's room was, and we have evidence that at that time the mate was lying down in one of the rooms in the after part of the vessel, and I will put in a plan of the vessel to show you its position. The cook is seen going into this room by two members of the crew and he is seen to come out again. No one else is seen to go in after the cook and the next thing we hear is that the boatswain goes down to the mate's room in order to see what the time was, when the mate seriously wounded falls into his arms when the door is opened. Then we have evidence that in that room is found a cleaver such as a cook would use and bloodstains on the floor and then we have medical evidence as to the state in which the wounded man was. The wounds which will be described in evidence are not those of a slight nature or the result of a scuffle and it is for you to consider the nature of the wounds because upon them to a certain extent depends the question of intention as to what the man who wounded the mate intended was to be the result of his acts. The cleaver or axe is a weapon calculated to give a serious blow and in the hands of one skilled in its use or even unskilled is a deadly weapon. There were three parallel wounds on the left side of the upper bone of the skull, the skull being composed of two layers of bones the wounds going in a slanting direction and from the fact that there were three parallel wounds quite close to each other and in the same region I will ask you to form the opinion that the attack was both repeated and determined. There was another blow in the region of the ear which would unless attended to have in itself resulted in death from hemorrhage. Besides that there was a brutal blow whereby part of the wounded man's left hand—the index finger, was entirely severed. That you will also bear in mind in regard to the nature of the attack and the number of blows that must have been the result of separate acts. We have evidence that the mate when the crew surrounded him on deck stated in the presence of the accused that he, the accused, was the man who did it. Such an accusation made in the presence of the accused man is perfectly good and proper evidence. The accused did not admit the offence. There also is evidence given at the preliminary trial in regard to three sewing women, seamstresses one sees in the streets who mend clothes from door to door, being on board that day. The prosecution have taken every step to find out who they were and get their evidence. I think, however, that the other evidence is so clear that their absence is in itself immaterial. But evidence was given that on that day there were three Chinese women on board but there was no evidence given in the lower Court of any dispute with these women whatever. Besides the members of the crew who were there I will call the master, John Woodward, who will give evidence as to the state of affairs on deck when he was summoned there by one of the sailors, and I will also ask him to show you a map of the deck of the vessel, showing the position where the witnesses say they were working and where the wounded man was lying when the assault was committed. There is evidence in the preliminary trial of a certain amount of drinking going on that day but it is unnecessary for me to refer to the fact that drunkenness is no excuse for crime. That is good, gentlemen, unless it amounts to insanity, but there is no evidence to show that the accused was in such a state as not to be responsible for his actions that day. I will also call the Consular constable who will prove the state in which he found the cabin when he went aboard to arrest the prisoner. There were also the blood-stained clothes of the accused, and these clothes have since been examined by a doctor of which I have given my learned friend notice. At the preliminary trial no evidence was given that Dr. Burge attended the wounded man, but I have given notice to my learned friend of my intention to call him to-day to speak as to the consciousness of the mate when he was surrounded by the sailors; because you see it was at that moment he says that the cook caused the injuries. The wounded man's depositions were taken at the hospital when he says he saw the cook in his cabin. I am glad to say that the wounded man will be able to give evidence. He is so much better. But on the point of consciousness I thought it better that Dr. Burge's evidence should be taken and I have requested him to attend and he has since been subpœnaed. You will therefore have his evidence on the point as to the consciousness of the wounded man at the time that he is alleged to have been attempted to have been murdered by the prisoner. I will now call evidence.

John Woodward, master of the *Dunfermline*, was sworn and said:—I was not aboard on August 30th until about half-past five, when I found the mate lying in the passageway leading to the cabin. Most of the crew were standing round and the prisoner was on the deck just outside. The plan of the ship produced was prepared by me and is a correct one. The mate was seriously wounded and when carried out on deck sat up and addressing the prisoner said: "Cook, you ——, you tried to do for me with an axe." He tried to get up to "go for" the cook but was held back as the blood was flowing freely. I did not hear the prisoner make any reply. I then sent for medical assistance. A cleaver was found in the mate's room and one of the crew went for it to try and knock the prisoner down.

By Mr. Phillips—Prisoner joined the ship at New York and sailed for Shanghai direct. I was away from the ship from half-past nine to half-past five on the day in question and the same the day before. Several of the crew, including the prisoner, had been ashore and the mate who left on the Saturday stayed away till Monday. I never saw the mate the worse for drink, but I believe he had been on this occasion. He seemed repentant for being away without leave, but I have no knowledge that he had been drinking on the day in question. I engaged a second mate after we came to Shanghai. He came aboard I believe on Monday, the 29th of August, and I heard that the mate turned him away. When I found the mate injured his wounds had not been dressed and I attended to it. I was not excited any more than I am now and as far as I remember, the words I have used were the same that the mate said to the cook. I have not heard of any ill-feeling existing between the prisoner and the mate; I formed no opinion as to whether he was intoxicated. He was very weak and I thought he was dying. The man who wanted to get the axe to cut down the cook was named Gorman, nicknamed "Frenchy;" I did not see this. It is only what I heard. I had really no complaint to make of the prisoner on the voyage, but I had to complain after reaching Shanghai of his going ashore without leave. Also on the Saturday night he came to me on board and said he would "swing for me." The discharges marked "very good" I have not seen. It is not necessarily a proof of good conduct. Very many men get good discharges who don't deserve them.

Dr. E. E. Henderson of the Shanghai General Hospital spoke to being called to the ship to attend to the mate. He had four dangerous wounds on the left side of the head which he should say must have been inflicted with considerable force. At the time the mate was under the influence of drink. He was removed to the hospital where with the exception of an epileptic fit which he had six days after admission he did very well. The clothing of the cook produced witness examined and found blood stains upon it, and on the back blood and human hair to the best of his knowledge. It was impossible to distinguish the blood of a man from the higher animals unless examined perfectly fresh.

Cross-examined—When he saw the man he was in a dazed condition, and this witness thought was due to the injuries he had received, but he was afterwards told by a nurse that he had vomited a large quantity of alcohol. He had seen cases where men had not been reduced to insensibility from such injuries, but it all depended on the man. With regard to the blood-stained clothing he knew the prisoner was a cook, and although he examined the hair by the side of specimens of hair of the mate and the prisoner he could not see any difference in it. It might have been the cook's. He thought the man would in the end recover but, as he said in the police court, such injuries were very often followed by severe nervous symptoms such as epilepsy.

Dr. Burge, M.R.C.S., spoke to being called to the *Dunfermline* on the afternoon of the 30th ult. He attended and found the man wounded and though in a dazed condition he was certainly conscious. They put him on a stretcher on the deck when he tried to get at the cook who was standing there. As far as he remembered he said he would swing for the cook. He heard the last-named assert his innocence.

In reply to a question of the jury, he said that possibly the mate after the first blow had been struck would be able to recognise the man who struck him.

Edwin Poole, the injured man, was then called. He said—I remember the 30th of August last. I was on board that day. I had an altercation with the prisoner about two o'clock in the afternoon, in consequence of the prisoner having attempted to put the other cook out of the galley. I went to lie down about four o'clock. The cook had been in my cabin after this. We were not quarrelling. I told the cook on the deck to go to his room and if he did not I would lick him. I went to sleep after I went to lie down. I did not wake up until I found I had been wounded. I saw the cook in the room. It was all like a vision but I remember it all quite clearly; he was the man. The next I knew about it was that I was in the hospital. When I woke up I did not know what had hurt me. I had had drink that day. There were three Chinese women aboard that I had for washing and mending clothes but there was no trouble with them.

Cross-examined—On the four months' voyage from New York I had no trouble with the cook or with anyone of the crew. We arrived here on the Friday and I went ashore on the Saturday night on the "spree." I had been drinking but I knew what I was doing. I went back to the ship on Monday, the day preceding the assault. I don't remember whether I slept on board on Monday or not. I had been drinking on Tuesday, but I was not very drunk at four o'clock. It was about this time that a friend of mine, an officer on another ship, came to see me. I don't know whether the cook came into my room while he was there. The Chinese women referred to had been mending my clothes. They had been on the vessel since the previous Saturday. I suppose they had been fixing the clothes of the other men. Whoever assaulted me I did not see the cleaver in his hand. I just remember seeing the cook but that is all. It seemed like a dream.

At this point the Court adjourned for tiffin. On resuming,

Andrew Kerres, boatswain, deposed to being on duty on the ship. The mate was there and had been drinking. He was in charge of the gang at the pumps and although he could not, the men at the port side of the pumps could see the entrance to the cabins. He saw the cook talking to the men at the pumps and said witness would have to mind himself, or he would never reach California. He also called the captain an opprobrious name and said he would do away with him.

Mr. Phillips objected to this evidence as not affecting the charge against the prisoner.

The Acting Chief Justice ruled that it was admissible as showing the prisoner's state of mind, and his disposition towards the other men on the ship.

Witness continuing said he saw the cook several times during the afternoon. The witness went into the mate's room with some clean clothes when he saw the mate asleep on the settle. This was about three o'clock, and after that he saw the prisoner several times going towards the cabin. At five o'clock witness went into the mate's room again. He opened the door and found the mate standing in a pool of blood. He fell into witness's arms, having been seriously wounded. Witness sang out for the crew not to allow anyone ashore. He saw the cleaver produced in the room covered with blood and he had seen one like it in the cook's galley. The cook told witness once that it had done work before and he bragged that he had already put one captain away.

By the Court—He would reasonably expect to find a chopper like it in the possession of the cook. He had never seen one like it in any other member of the crew's possession. The accused had been drinking that day.

Cross-examined—He only knew of one bottle of whisky coming aboard that day. Prisoner bought it and sold a coat to get it. He could not say how many times the prisoner went aft, but he saw him several times.

Thomas Jackson, sailor of the *Dunfermline*, stated that he was working at the pumps when he saw the cook repeatedly going in and out of the mate's room. About five o'clock he saw him go to the room, open the door and putting his body half in, suddenly closed the door and went further aft. A few minutes later he saw the prisoner return, open the door of the mate's room, go in and close the door. A very short time afterwards prisoner came out and went back to the galley. He saw nothing in the prisoner's hands. A moment later he went aft and sang out for them to come and see what somebody had done to the mate.

By the Court—The Chinese women were on board at the time.

Continuing, witness said that when they got the mate on deck the mate charged the prisoner with causing the injuries. He never heard of or saw any Chinese woman bringing such a thing as a chopper aboard, and saw never such an instrument among the carpenter's or boatswain's tools.

Council for the defence intimated that it was not any part of his case that the chopper was other than what would be used in the galley.

Witness, cross-examined, saw a visitor go into the mate's room in the forenoon. He was a stranger to the ship. It would be about three when the mate came out and challenged the cook. He knew the time because he kept running aft to look at the clock so as not to work more at the pumps than his spell and let somebody else have a "go."

Counsel for defence—You must be a very valuable seaman on board the *Dunfermline?*

Witness—Well at the present time I am trying to get my discharge. (Laughter.)

In conclusion, witness said that he was certain as to the movements of the cook aft. When he got the mate out on deck he asked him who inflicted the injuries. He first said he didn't know, but afterwards he said it was the cook. Witness thought the mate was quite capable of saying who it was.

Joseph Gorman, A.B. of the *Dunfermline*, gave similar testimony.

Cross-examined—He had not been drinking that day. He had two drinks with the prisoner. He saw the prisoner go aft and go into the mate's room, but he did not see anything in his hand.

Wm. Eardley and John Davoll, also A.B.'s, gave evidence to the like effect. The last-named deposed to seeing the mate's visitor safe over the side of the ship and to seeing the mate all right afterwards.

On the suggestion of the Crown Advocate the witness Davoll, in reply to the Bench, said he did not see anyone either come in or go out of the mate's cabin after the cook came out.

William Brun, Consular Constable, stated that when he went aboard the ship to arrest the prisoner he went into the chief officer's room. He found it a pool of blood, and saw the hatchet produced and the mate's finger on the floor. The clothes stained with blood which he took to Dr. Henderson belonged to the prisoner.

Cross-examined—The prisoner, when the warrant was read over to him denied the charge.

This concluded the evidence.

His Lordship (to Crown Advocate)—Do you propose to avail yourself of your statutory right to sum up, as Mr. Phillips is not calling witnesses?

Mr. Wilkinson—I was undecided whether to take the Attorney-General's right to reply.

His Honour—Is that the custom in this Court?

Mr. Wilkinson—I have done so before.

His Lordship—I should say it is a very doubtful point.

Mr. Wilkinson—Then I will sum up.

On the conclusion of Mr. Wilkinson's summing up Mr. Phillips addressed the jury in an admirable speech, following which His Lordship reviewed the whole of the evidence. The jury retired and after ten minutes' absence returned into Court with a verdict of guilty of wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm.

His Lordship sentenced the prisoner to one year and eleven months' imprisonment plus such other days as might be necessary to find him a ship on the expiration of the period quoted.

The Crown Advocate summed up the evidence called for the prosecution. He said:—You have heard the evidence I proposed to call and which I have called, and it is for you when you have heard what my learned friend has to say in defence of the prisoner whether the prisoner is guilty of either of the charges brought against him, and it is my duty to prove him guilty of the more serious crime of attempted murder. Lifeon ships may be rough and the lives of the men are generally speaking very different from the lives of yourselves and myselt. Therefore they are all the more entitled to the protection of the law when that life leads them to overstep the limits that are necessary for the protection of human life and property. As to the evidence in this case you have heard that a certain number of men, in a position to see, working on the port side of the pumps of this vessel saw the cook going up and down the deck and into the mate's cabin, and a chopper covered with blood being found in the mate's room and the mate wounded in such a way as might have been made with that chopper. True they did not see the cook carry the chopper there but there was evidence of him being seen to go to the cabin and no one else was seen there until the mate was found wounded. My learned friend I have no doubt might and I have no doubt will in his duty to the prisoner raise the defence that there had been drinking, but it can be no defence to hit a man over the head with a chopper unless that drunkenness amounted to absolute insanity. It has nothing to do with the case and it could be no excuse for A to murderously assault B, just because A and B had been drinking. As regards the visitor my learned friend has made a point of it and a perfectly legitimate point, and I myself would have raised it under like circumstances, but whether he came on board before twelve or between twelve and one, he was seen to go over the side and after that the mate was seen well and hearty and offering to fight the accused on deck. As regards the Chinese women I have to deal with a possible defence but it is a very far-fetched hypothesis to contend that four Chinese women took a chopper and made four consecutive chops on the mate's head and then cut off his finger. You have had evidence that the accused was in a violent state of mind and wanted to go for somebody and you have perfectly reliable evidence that he was willing to swing for the captain. There was the man with his head cut and his finger chopped off and it is for you as a jury summoned here to say whether the prisoner did it or not, and if you do not find him guilty of the crime of attempted murder there is the second indictment of intentionally inflicting grievous bodily harm.

Mr. Phillips then addressed the jury on behalf of the prisoner. In the course of an impassioned appeal he said—I am sure it must be a source of great satisfaction to the prisoner at the bar that although he is very far distant from his native country still he has the privilege of being tried by a jury of his countrymen before an English Judge and in a Court of English law. The prisoner at the bar is a man standing here friendless and without means. He has been obliged to ask for legal assistance in his trial and my lord with that humanity which distinguishes English Judges has afforded that assistance. And I can assure you it is a privilege to me to think that the first time my voice has been heard in this Court is on behalf of a fellow countryman who has asserted his innocence from first to last. Gentlemen, there is one other introductory subject which I shall allude to and that is that you should dismiss entirely from your minds any sort of conclusion you may previously have arrived at in regard to this case. It is possible and probable that you have read the reports in the papers when the prisoner was tried in the Court below and possibly you may have arrived at some conclusion then as to his guilt or not. If you have, pray dismiss it from your minds entirely for it is for you, gentlemen, to give a decision on this matter upon the evidence which has been introduced here to-day and upon that alone. I need not say that the charge against the prisoner is of the utmost gravity. The indictment speaks for itself in that Charles Bithrey, the prisoner at the bar, is charged with unlawfully and feloniously wounding one Poole with intent thereby to murder him. The case it seems to me divides itself into two heads. That is to say, in the first place, did the prisoner at the bar make the attack on the mate and if he did had he the intention in his mind to murder him? Now I propose very briefly to discuss these two points and I am quite sure, gentlemen, you will give me an attentive hearing, and I hope the arguments I shall advance before you will have some effect on the decision to which you will presently come. You are asked to convict this man on the evidence you have heard to-day,—evidence chiefly of his shipmates and the doctors to which I shall allude later on. Does it appear to you that the evidence of these shipmates is satisfactory evidence? That you can thoroughly trust it, that it is reliable, that these men who were working on the vessel at the time were accurate observers of what transpired? There is evidence that the mate had for two or three days been very much on the loose and in a state of drunkenness and that when he returned to the boat on the day in question he was in a state of mad drunkenness. There is also evidence that the other men had all of them been drinking, more or less, and these are the persons on whose evidence you are asked to find this man guilty of this serious charge. You must be perfectly clear that it is absolutely accurate before you act on that evidence and convict the prisoner at the bar. It seems to me that it is evidence of such a character that you cannot rely on it and that you will not let such evidence convict the prisoner. The evidence is entirely of a circumstantial character. Nobody saw him actually do the deed and it is only on certain circumstances in the case that the prosecution asks you to come to the conclusion that the prisoner committed this attack on the man Poole. Now, gentlemen, it world be very wrong of me to say you must not rely on circumstantial evidence, because juries are asked to do so, and do rely on it, but there is this fact about such evidence that you have to test every portion of it with the greatest care before giving a decision. In this case I doubt that the evidence is clear enough to warrant you in convicting him. I ask you to say were these witnesses that have been called for the prosecution in such a position as to accurately observe the movements of the cook. There was nothing very remarkable about him going aft near the mate's room as we have had it in evidence that the pantry is there, and I ask you to attach no importance to that. The evidence with regard to time too is very unsatisfactory and I do ask you in considering it to reject as unlikely and improbable what they say. Then we come to the statement made by the mate as to who assaulted him and a good deal depends upon it. That again is not reliable as Jackson says that when he asked him who did it the mate at first said he did not know but afterwards alleged that it was the cook. When I cross-examined Dr. Henderson he said he had known of cases like that when consciousness was retained, but the jury would consider if it was likely that a man having such severe wounds inflicted when in a bad state of drunkenness would not be reduced to a state of unconsciousness. The doctors had come to Court with their minds made up that the prisoner was guilty and really the evidence of Dr. Burge was rather entertaining. Questioned on the point of consciousness as to whether these blows would not have the effect of reducing him to unconsciousness he said most likely the first blow was not so severe as the others. That is the most extraordinary hypothesis I have ever heard in a Court of Justice. It is too ridiculous for words. Then there is the highly important almost awful fact that the mate says he saw the prisoner in his room as in a dream or a vision and then he remembered nothing more until, he woke up at the hospital some time after. No reliance can be placed on the statement, the mate was very drunk and remembers hardly anything, and I will ask you to come to the conclusion that he was in such a state of drunkenness as to be unable to say anything with regard to what took place. It was the vision of a diseased mind and the creature of a disordered fancy. He had something against the cook, it was in his mind, and that is all he says, he woke up and saw the cook as in a vision. I ask you most earnestly to remember this in considering the mate's accusation and also the fact that he must have been in a state of virtual unconsciousness when he made it. The fact of the chopper being found in the mate's room is no real proof against the prisoner. The chopper was kept in the galley and it was open to anybody to lay hold of it and take it away for any purposes they wished. Then again none of the witnesses saw him carrying the instrument. The evidence of the captain does not seem to me altogether satfsfactory. There was a touch of animus about it in regard to these discharge notes all of which bear good characters from 1895 to 1898 and of which the captain has his doubts. The prisoner is a man of good character and has served his country in the Soudan expedition of 1883 and for that has the medal and bar. He has always had a good character and that is a very important fact for you to take into consideration. The men had been on good terms and what earthly motive could there he for him to make such an attack on the mate. If you find that the prisoner did commit this assault on the mate, in that case, I hope you will satisfy yourselves that it was not with intent to murder as the men were on good terms and the only occasion on which they were otherwise was when the mate wanted to fight the cook who refused. Again when you come to consider your verdict remember the circumstantial character of the evidence and the mental condition in which the mate was when he made this accusation, and I believe you will consider it your duty to acquit him of the indictments made against him.

His Lordship in his charge to the jury said the law was very simple on the case before the Court. If the prisoner struck the blows they had heard so much about they would have to consider the probable consequences of his act and what was in his mind when he struck them and what would be the result. If the jury thought it was death, they would bring him in guilty of attempted murder; if they thought it was merely to do the mate grievous bodily harm then they might bring him in guilty on the second count. Referring to the evidence his lordship directed the attention of the jury to the statement which Captain Woodward said was made by the mate in which he said the cook had tried to do for him; Dr. Burge had said the mate got up and wanted to go for the cook, and Dr. Burge had also said the mate might possibly have recognised the man after the blows were inflicted. The mate also said their had been trouble about 2 p.m. and the mate said he could not have been mistaken—he saw the prisoner clearly. Kerne's evidence showed the state of prisoner's mind when he mentioned about someone being done for before the ship reached California. Jackson's evidence was given in a very straightforward manner when he said the cook was going in and out of the mate's room and when he went there the last time, opened the door and stayed there a few minutes. His Lordship thought the Chinese women might be dismissed altogether from the case as it was extremely unlikely that they would assault one man on board a ship full of men. Gorman said that prisoner told him he was going to do something before night and Eardley said he saw the cook go to the mate's room, return to the galley, and sit down at about 5 o'clock. Davoll said no one was seen to go into the cabin after the cook came out. The question of drunkenness was entirely on the side of the man injured. As regarded the chopper it certainly did appear curious that if the cook did the deed he should leave it behind; but then if was covered with blood and it would have been quite impossible for him to have got it back to the galley without attracting notice by carrying it openly, or staining his clothes if he concealed it. With regard to circumstantial evidence that did not matter, the jury would have to think whether this man did the deed or not. If they had any reasonable doubt it was their duty to give it in favour of the prisoner.

The jury retired to consider their verdict and after the lapse of a short time returned into Court the foreman stating that they had found the prisoner guilty on the second indictment.

Prisoner when asked if he had anything to say protested his innocence and said he could not tell how the chopper got into the cabin.

His Lordship said prisoner had been convicted after a very careful trial, and he had been very kindly defended and very ably defended of the crime of intending to do grievous bodily harm. He would be sentenced to one year and eleven months' imprisonment, and to be detained in Shanghai after the expiration of his sentence until a ship could be found for him to go away.

Addressing Mr. Phillips his Lordship said: I must thank you for your very great kindness in undertaking prisoner's defence. It was done in a very able manner and you have said all there was to say about it.

H.B.M.'s. CIVIL SUMMARY COURT.

Shanghai, 13th September.

Before F. S. A. BOURNE, Esq., *Acting Chief Justice.*

SORABJEE *v.* HOOSEIN.

Mahommed Hoosein was the defendant in this case and he was sued by Framjee Sorabjee, storekeepers, of Nanking Road and Broadway, for $10.69 for goods supplied.

The claim was not disputed, but defendant said at present he was out of a situation and had not had any employment for the last five or six months; but when he got work he was willing to pay.

The Acting Chief Justice, in entering judgment for the plaintiff for the amount claimed, told the plaintiff that when he found the defendant was able to pay he could apply for a judgment summons.

H.B.M.'s POLICE COURT.

Shanghai, 12th September.

Before Mr. W. P. KER, Esq., *Police Magistrate.*

R. *v.* KELLY.

Frank Kelly, an A. B. belonging to the British ship *William Law*, was charged with being absent from the ship without leave, since the 26th of August.

Captain Abbott, master of the *William Law*, said prisoner went ashore on the 26th of August without permission.

Prisoner's defence was that he left the ship to see a doctor, as he was not well.

His Worship sentenced prisoner to ten days' hard labour, to be put on board if the ship left earlier.

R. *v.* HARVEY.

Arthur Harvey, unemployed, was charged with being drunk and incapable in a 'ricsha in the Woochang Road, on the previous night.

Police Constable Thompson proved the charge, and there being several previous convictions against the prisoner, His Worship fined him $20, with the alternative of a month's hard labour.

R. *v.* BANNERMAN.

John Bannerman was brought up on a charge of being drunk and disorderly in the Boone Road at 11 o'clock on the previous night.

Police-Sergeant McGregor said that on the previous night prisoner was in an alley-way off Boone Road, trying to force his way into a lodging house.

A native constable tried to persuade him to go away but he refused. The people living in the house complained of his annoying them, so witness took him into custody. Prisoner was drunk.

Prisoner said he lived in the house, and was trying to wake the people up in order to get in.

There were several previous convictions recorded against the prisoner, and His Worship ordered him to pay a fine of $5, or go to prison for a week, with hard labour.

13th September.

R. *v.* NABOB SINGH.

An unemployed Sikh, named Nabob Singh, was charged with being drunk and creating a disturbance at a native lodging house on Woosung Road, on Monday evening.

An old Chinese woman, proprietress of the house in question, said that on Monday night just as it was getting dark prisoner entered her house, threw down a dollar on the table and attempted to drag her upstairs. She was frightened and screamed out, when the prisoner, who was drunk, became very violent, smashing a lamp, several chairs, and the door of one of the rooms. The damage, altogether, she assessed at $3.

Native Constable 405, deposed to being called to the house when he saw the prisoner holding the old woman's arm and behaving very roughly towards her. He took him into custody.

Prisoner who said he had only been in Shanghai a few weeks told the magistrate that if he had committed himself he was very sorry. He had had a little too much drink on the previous evening, but if his Worship would deal leniently with him he would not repeat the offence.

He was ordered to pay a fine of $2 and also $3 the amount of the damage. The money was paid.

16th September.

R. *v.* HINMAN AND MALONEY.

William Hinman and Edward Maloney, A.B.'s belonging to the ship *Perseverance*, were charged with being drunk and disorderly in Broadway. The charge having been proved, His Worship sent Hinman to gaol for a week with hard labour, and ordered the other prisoner to pay a fine of $3 or go to prison for a week.

THE BANK OF CHINA, JAPAN AND THE STRAITS, LIMITED, AND THEIR CHINESE SHAREHOLDERS.

Shanghai, 12th September.

The Taotai of Shanghai, His Honour Tsai Chün, and H. B. M.'s Consul-General, Mr. Byron Brenan, C.M.G., sat at the Bureau of Foreign Affairs, Bubbling Well Road, on Monday, when the case brought against Woo Chee-dong on account of unpaid calls on shares in the above-named Bank was continued; the ruling also governing an action on similar terms against Wai Pow-kee.

Mr. J. C. Hanson (Messrs. Dowdall, Hanson, and McNeill) and Mr. A. P. Stokes (Messrs. Johnson, Stokes, and Master) appeared for the plaintiff Company, and Mr. T. R. Jernigan defended Woo Chee-dong.

On assembling of the Court Mr. Jernigan, preparatory to opening the case on the part of the defence, put in copies of the *North-China Herald* dated October 1896 and July 1896, containing reports of the cases brought by the Bank in the British Court against certain shareholders referred to by Mr. Hanson in his speech; the decision of the French Consular Court at Shanghai; the decision of the United States Consular Court; and a translation of the remarks he proposed to make in order to obviate the necessity of their being interpreted and thus unnecessarily prolonging the proceedings.

Mr. Jernigan said—If the Court is ready I will proceed. If your Honour pleases the translation I have put in will be substantially the speech I propose to make.

Before submitting to your Honour the considerations which I believe will guide to a correct decision in this case, it is proper that I should refer to the proceedings of the Court at its last session.

The provision of the Treaty (the Chefoo Convention) under which this Court is organised, gives the British Consul-General the right to file a protest to any part of the proceedings that may appear to him unsatisfactory, and this he has done; but that part of the protest which excepts to the ruling of your Honour on the motion of the Counsel for the plaintiff, because it produces uncertainty, is, I think, as untenable as that other part which alleges that your Honour is not acting in conformity with Article 17 of the Treaty of Tientsin.

In my opinion the ruling of your Honour, that you would hear all this case, has probably prevented an appeal that would have gone to a higher Court upon a technical point, which did not touch its real merits, and whatever the decision of the higher Court, there would have been no final decision until the contentions of both sides as to the merits had been fully heard here, thus causing a waste of time. The uncertain state intimated in the protest relative to plaintiff's counsel, as the result of your Honour's ruling, does not appear to have been justified by them, for they quote from the laws of all countries, and there is no reason why they should not have continued their researches into the law of China, the very country into whose Courts they have brought this action. Being members of a profession which they both honour by their attainments, and with many years' practice in the Courts of China, it naturally caused a feeling of surprise by an admission of uncertainty on their part as to how to proceed in such Courts. It would seem that a careful reading of the 17th section of the Treaty of Tientsin, in the light of other sections and subsequent amendments to the same Treaty, would give to the 17th section a meaning different from that given in the protest. The section under consideration would reasonably bear the construction that it contemplated the settlement of differences between British and Chinese subjects outside of Court, and the spirit of the section advises such settlement, but under the widest latitude it could never have been meant as a valid basis for a protest to proceedings actually in a Court, under a Treaty of later date, and because the Court did not choose to decide a motion favourably to the wishes of the Consul-General or Counsel.

In the course of Mr. Hanson's speech he took occasion to refer to certain decisions made by Consular Courts at Shanghai, and from his comments he would have impressed your Honour that the decision of the United States Consular Court had not been sustained,

If the decision of the French Court at Saigon be studied, in connection with that of the French Consular Court for Shanghai, it is clear that the decision of neither of these Courts decides the questions that were before the United States Consular Court. All these decisions were made for reasons materially different, and the French Court at Saigon overruled the French Consular Court at Shanghai upon a technicality that did not reach the merits of the case before the latter Court, and as stated, the decisions of the French and United States Consular Courts were upon somewhat different grounds but both were against the Bank; and I am not so sure, as Mr. Hanson seems to be, that the French Court at Saigon is of higher grade than the United States Consular Court at Shanghai.

This last Court is a Federal Court, governed by the laws passed by the Congress of the United States, and has the powers and jurisdiction of a United States Court.

Mr. Hanson was again inaccurate when he accepted the decision of the Danish Consular Court as final, for there was an appeal against that decision, which is still pending in the Appellate Court in Denmark. So your Honour will see that thus far, in no material sense, has the decision of the United States Consular Court been disturbed, and that the decision of the French Consular Court still stands. I may be pardoned for saying here that the decision of the United States Consular Court has been approved by some of the most eminent American judges and lawyers.

But Mr. Hanson was unfortunate in referring your Honour to the decisions of the British Court at Shanghai. These decisions, as Mr. Hanson stated, are published in the *North-China Herald* of

July 30th, and October 23rd, 1896, and I have both dates of the paper with me. The report of the first case shows that there were no issues raised and that the defendant simply appeared in Court and confessed judgment. No issues in any sense similar to the issues before your Honour were before the British Court at all, and had such issues been raised no one knows how they would have been decided by the Chief Justice of that Court. When a person goes into Court and confesses judgment nothing remains but to enter judgment against him, and that is all the British Court did; such an entry of a judgment confessed cannot be referred to as sustaining the contention of the plaintiffs in their case or establishing a precedent.

The other cases referred to by Mr. Hanson, as having been decided in favour of the plaintiffs in the British Court at Shanghai, are substantially similar to the first. No such issues as are now before your Honour have ever been before a British Court at Shanghai.

British subjects, residing in China, have been summoned to appear before a British Court in England at the instance of the very plaintiff who has summoned the defendant to appear before this Court, but no issues similar to the issues raised here have been raised and decided by any High Court of Justice in England. The British subjects summoned in England appear to have let judgment go by default or confession, and no paper, no document, filed in this Court by the Counsel for the plaintiff shows that the issues presented to your Honour have ever been presented to and decided in favour of the plaintiff by any British Court.

It would be an unwarranted inference that because a British Court has approved of the plaintiff going into liquidation and the appointment of a liquidator, it had passed upon and approved of all the plaintiffs' past sins of commission and omission. To commit any Court to such a doctrine would shake the judicial structure to its foundation and destroy confidence in the decisions of Courts.

A Court should only pass upon the issues before it; and the issues are always presented by the pleadings, the petition and the answer, and the evidence offered must be directed to the issues so presented, but the mere confession of judgment, by a defendant, does not commit a Court entering the judgment, to an approval of all the petitioner may allege in his petition. In the very petition now before your Honour the decision of a British Court in London is quoted, and so quoted, as have been the decisions of the British Court at Shanghai, as to impress your Honour that they are decisions in favour of the plaintiff, when in fact nothing material to this case has been decided by these decisions.

And I repeat to your Honour that the decision of the French Consular Court against the Bank remains in all material essentials as when rendered; that the decision of the United States Consular Court has never been overruled by any Court; that the decision of the Danish Consular Court stands challenged in the Court of Appeal in Denmark; and that no British Court has ever decided the issues presented by the pleadings in this case, and when such issues have been presented to Courts the majority of decisions have been unfavourable to the Bank.

I have said to your Honour that, to know what issues were before you, it would be necessary to look to the petition and answer, and that whatever might be said or whatever evidence might be offered that was not relevant to the issues thus raised could not be considered. I want your Honour to bear that in mind, because in the petition the plaintiff is suing on a call alleged to be due on shares, but it is not alleged anywhere in the petition that this action is brought in the interest of the creditors of the Corporation. The word "creditors" does not appear in the petition, and if this action is brought in the interest of the creditors, both law and equity require that the fact should have been distinctly set forth in the petition, and not by inference. No one can be allowed to come into Court and select to represent an interest that is not designated in the pleadings, and, as I will explain later on, the rights of the liquidator are only such rights as the Corporation would have had, for the liquidator stands in the place of the Corporation, subject to the defences that were valid against the Corporation. And it is a principle of law that a corporation has only power to make contracts, such as its Charter of Incorporation permits and these are limited to such agreements as are specified in the Charter itself; and as the Charter of Incorporation is notice to all of the rights and powers of the corporation, those who deal with it are not allowed by law to plead that they were ignorant of such rights and powers, not any more than would a person who bought a house and lot with a registered mortgage on it, to say that he did not know of the mortgage.

The Charter of Incorporation before your Honour proves that the powers and rights given therein were to do a loan and trust business only, and as it is admitted that the corporation, thus created, engaged in banking business, it is incumbent upon the plaintiff to show his corporate authority for the change. As I shall direct the attention of your Honour to this particular feature of the case, in another division of my argument, I will only say now that if your Honour will examine the documents in evidence you will find that there has been no change whatever in the original Charter to legalise the act of the plaintiff, when he engaged in banking, and that such an act was *ultra vires*, beyond his corporate powers, and releasing shareholders from moral as well as legal responsibilities. There is no principle of law so strongly intrenched by judicial decisions, as that a corporation cannot legally go outside of its original charter to engage in business not contemplated by it, and the only legal way to change a charter to permit a corporation to engage in business not contemplated, is to go through the same legal formality as is prescribed for obtaining charters. The nature of the proposed change has to be specially stated and there must be a new registration; and this legal requirement was recognised at the meeting of the Board of Directors that changed the name of the Corporation from "The Trust and Loan Company of China, Japan and the Straits" to "The Bank of China, Japan and the Straits."

If your Honour will examine the report of that meeting you will see that the Chairman expressly stated that the change of the name did not imply a change in the intended business of the Company, and no alterations in the Articles of Association were necessary. That Board of Directors, about which I shall have more to say, changed the name and said that if it had intended to change the business the Articles of Association would have to be changed; but the business was changed, the Articles of Association have not been changed, as prescribed by law, and this constitutes the *ultra vires* which stops the plaintiff from recovering anything of the defendant.

I will ask your Honour's attention to the authorities in support of this rule of law; "Any radical or even material change in the charter seriously prejudicial to the shareholder's interest, and without his consent, absolves him from all liability to pay subsequent assessments." *Ang. and A. Corp. p. 483.* Hartford and N. H. R. R. Co: *vs.* Crosnell. *5H (N. Y.) 383:* Middlesex T. Risie Co. *vs.* Swan. *10 Mass. 384:* and what could be more seriously prejudicial, or what change more radical and material, to the interests of shareholders, than to organise a corporation as a Trust and Loan Company, sell shares as such, and then at a meeting of Directors change the name to a Bank, but at the same time give the public the assurance that all shares previously and subsequently sold would still be the shares of a Trust and Loan Company although the name had been changed, and afterward engage in a different business? Business men everywhere are interested in having the requirements of the law complied with. If a Cotton Mill Company was allowed to sell its shares as Cotton Mill shares, and then engage in the Silk Filature business, what shareholders would be safe if Courts were to give their approval to such a doctrine?

Mr. Hanson desired to impress upon your Honour that the affairs of the Bank had been examined by a Committee of "independent gentlemen" and that these gentlemen had given a reason for its failure; but Mr. Hanson has not put in evidence any proof showing the authority by which these independent gentlemen undertook to make the examination, and examinations of that character, in order to be admitted as evidence, would have to be made in strict conformity to law, and those interested in the result would have to be properly notified; there is no evidence before this Court of such conformity nor is there any evidence that any meeting of a Board of Directors was ever called in accordance with the Articles of Association. In such matters the Court cannot presume that the Articles of Association were complied with; the Court can only decide upon the evidence before it; and when Courts are asked to accept the statement of independent gentlemen, and the action of Directors, the request should be accompanied with the proof that the statement and action are warranted by law. The act of a Registrar does not cover such defects, for he is a ministerial officer.

Mr. Hanson has offered, as evidence, what he calls the list of contributories, and tells us that it was made out by the Liquidator; but a liquidator has no authority to make out a list of contributories, except with the consent of the Committee of inspection, which is appointed to assist the liquidator; and with the consent of this Committee only can the list be made out. There is no evidence before your Honour that any Committee of inspection has ever had anything to do with the list brought into this Court, much less giving its consent.

But it is a sufficient defence against this action for the defendant to satisfy the Court that the plaintiffs have gone *ultra vires* the Articles of Association. But as Mr. Hanson has alluded to the pecuniary affairs of the bank, I beg your Honour's special attention to what the Board of Directors published was the pecuniary condition of the Company at the very meeting when the name was changed.

I hold in my hand the minutes of the proceedings of that meeting, and I find the statements following, published. "The Chairman said:

"The accounts presented to you to-day show such profitable results as to emphatically confirm the opinion we have held of the promising character of the business the Company was organised to undertake."

There was cause for the mutual congratulations which followed when the Chairman stated that the net profit slightly exceeded the sum of £87,000, and that £55,000 could be carried to the reserve fund, bringing that fund in the first year of the Company's existence to £100,000.

Another statement by the Chairman reads thus: "In mentioning the results of last year's operations I should not omit to tell you that in realising the profits we have made, circumstances favoured us not a little at the time the Company was established, and that the dearness of money for a considerable period of last year, and also the fluctuations in silver, enabled the Board to make good disposition of the Capital and other funds at their disposal, in carrying out operations, and in making investments in India and the Straits, and in China and Japan, where, upon real estate, and advances upon solid securities, we have been able to find satisfactory employment for money. It is in the East almost exclusively that we have found a field for our operations, and it may interest you to know that we have not a penny piece invested in any shape or form in South American securities." There was applause when the above statement was made.

And again: "Our advances are so arranged that, as assets, we can count on them being liquid in a certain order, and in a manner that will enable us to enforce the margins we may deem it essential should be maintained."

Your Honour will see that the pecuniary condition of the Company was excellent so long as it continued the Trust and Loan business, in accordance with its Articles of Association, and so satisfied were the Directors that a unanimous approval was voted. It was only after the Articles of Association were violated that reverses came thick and fast and, as a consequence, these suits and troubles in the shape of Banks and liquidators and dissatisfied lawyers.

In closing his speech Mr. Hanson makes the demand that your Honour try this case as by the "special agreement" that it be tried according to British laws. At one of the sessions of the Court Mr. Stokes argued at some length in favour of Mr. Hanson's demand, and I replied, submitting to your Honour what I understood to be the general principles of law bearing on the subject. But I have since examined some legal authorities which, in view of Mr. Hanson's reiterated demand, I feel that I should read to the Court. I will now read from *Minor's Intitutes;* a book of the highest authority with the Courts of the United States, Mr. Minor being professor of the Common Law of England, at the University of Virginia. In Volume I, page 549, the fundamental rule to govern, when the *lex loci* is in question, is stated as follows: "'It is for the local sovereign to prescribe the terms upon which the presence of the Corporate Body, by its agents, and the conducting of the operations in a foreign country shall be permitted; but by the consent, express or implied, of the local government, it may transact there any business not *ultra vires*, that is, not beyond its chartered powers or capacity." The above rule is supported by many decisions, such as the Bank of Augusta *v.* Earle, 13. Ret. 590, Silver Safe Bank *v.* North, 4. John. C.R. 372, and the rule gives to your Honour the right to decide whether the plaintiff has transacted business *ultra vires*, that is, beyond his chartered powers or capacity. If so the *lex loci* cannot apply. In *Kent's Commentaries*, one of the very highest law authorities, volume II, page 571, that law is stated thus:—"It is, however, a necessary exception to the universality of the rule, that no people are bound or ought to enforce, or hold valid in their Courts of Justice any contract which is injurious to their public rights or contravenes their policy or violates a public law;" and the same author adds:—"that on this subject of conflicting laws there is a stubborn principle of jurisprudence that will often intervene and act with controlling efficacy, that principle is that when the *lex loci* and the *lex fori*, as to conflicting rights, come in direct collision, the comity of nations must yield to the law of the land.'

Your Honour will understand that the high authority on law from which I have just quoted leaves no doubt that when the law of the country where a contract is made comes into conflict with the law or the country where it is to be enforced the law of the latter governs.

I will quote from one more authority, *Parson on Contracts*, and one of the highest known to any law. I read from volume II, page 569. "In no case do foreign laws acquire the force of a law within a sovereignty which is foreign to that in which they were enacted; nor could this be the case without confusion of sovereignties, but the effect of the comity is that the foreign law only is permitted to have some operation when it in no degree conflicts with the powers or the rights of native laws or their operations."

Your Honour will remember that when referring to Mr. Stokes' speech I said that his position was generally sound, but that there were exceptions, and that in the case before the Court the exceptions rendered inapplicable the law he quoted; the authorities from which I have read establish the soundness of my position.

In replying to the arguments of the opposing Counsel, I have necessarily discussed some points which I now hope to present in more logical order, and if, in so doing, I shall repeat myself too often, I must beg the indulgence of the Court.

The commercial relations between China and Great Britain owe their origin to the treaty which has been entered into by the two Empires.

There were no relations existing between these empires until a treaty was signed and it is solely to the treaty between the contracting empires that we must look for the correct definition of such relations.

Before the signing of the treaty Great Britain could not trade with China, but after the treaty had been signed the subjects of China and the subjects of Great Britain were allowed to trade, and the regulations for the government of their trade were expressly provided for in the treaty.

One of the provisions of the treaty is that British subjects shall be allowed to reside at certain ports of China for purposes of trade, but as the word trade implies a contract, and as there must at least be two parties to every contract, it became necessary to provide in the treaty for Courts before which rights could be enforced and wrongs redressed.

In order therefore that rights might be properly enforced and wrongs adequately redressed the provision following was prepared by China and Great Britain and incorporated in the treaty between them:

"Be it further understood that so long as the laws of the two countries differ from each other, there can be but one principle to guide judicial proceedings in mixed cases in China, namely, that the case is tried by the official of the defendant's nationality; the official of the plaintiff's nationnality merely attending to watch the proceeding in the interests of justice. If the officer so attending be dissatisfied with the proceedings, it will be in his power to protest against them in detail. The law administered will be the law of the nationality of the officer trying the case. This is the meaning of the words *hui t'ing*, indicating combined action in judicial proceedings, in Article 16 of the Treaty of Tientsin; and this is the course to be respectively followed by the officers of either nationality."

The provision which I have quoted, word for word, is from the Chefoo Convention, between China and Great Britain, and the ratifications of which were exchanged at London, May 6th, 1886, and thus became a part of the treaty between China and Great Britain.

The language of the provision is so clear and explicit as to leave us no possible doubt as to its meaning. It was prepared to remove every doubt that might have existed as to what law should govern in defining the rights of British and Chinese subjects in China.

The laws of the two empires being different, China says to Great Britain that British subjects are to be tried by British law, and Great Britain says to China that Chinese subjects are to be tried by Chinese law:—thus did both empires agree and the agreement was made a part of the treaty which both have ratified.

The Court before which I now appear is organised in accordance with the provision I have quoted. Without that provision there would be no authority to hold this Court, its sittings here would be unwarranted and its acts illegal, but being constituted in accordance with a treaty which Great Britain and China have plighted their faith under their great seals shall be the supreme law and binding between their respective subjects, it must follow that if a subject of either of these empires can, by any special agreement, nullify the treaty or in any way defeat its operations, then the Queen of Great Britain and the Emperor of China are powerless to make treaties binding their subjects.

And if your Honour decides that the case before you is to be governed by British law you will decide that the defendant can make a contract by virtue of which a treaty made by your Emperor can be nullified. That would be a dangerous decision for your Honour, because it would destroy all faith in a treaty. It would be published to the world that although China enters into treaty relations with foreign powers the Courts of China do not protect and enforce treaty relations, that if a subject of China chooses to do so he can by a special agreement compel a Court of China to be governed by the laws of a foreign nation, and it remains for your Honour to decide whether it accords with the public policy of China to hold that the special agreement of a Chinese and a foreigner is more binding than a treaty obligation.

The plaintiff in this action is in this Court by virtue of the provision to which I have directed the attention of the Court. If that or a similar provision was not in the treaty the plaintiff could not come here and ask your Honour for the judgment they demand in their petition. They admit the legality of the provision and its binding force in every particular, and have complied with it, in order to get their case into Court, and then they want your Honour to hear and determine it according to the law of their country, and their reason for wanting British law to take possession of your Honour and to govern you in your decision is an alleged special agreement with the defendant that British law was to govern. Whether the defendant signed the alleged special agreement under a misapprehension, is not so material as it is for your Honour to deny the right of foreign law to invade the precincts of this Court, drive out Chinese law and then to govern you.

I have great respect for British law and I do not want it to move out of its usual orbit of justice to do an erratic act. While studying for the profession of which I am a humble member, my entire time was devoted to the study of the books wherein were taught the elementary principles of right and justice which make law the perfection of human reason; but nations no more than individuals can be permitted to violate contracts, and I shall submit to your Honour that British law does not support the request of the plaintiff that this case be tried by it any more than it does his demand for a judgment against the defendant. In invoking British law to his aid he calls a witness that testifies with overwhelming proof in favour of sustaining the faith of treaties and the principle of open fair dealing,

There is no doctrine more generally recognised by nations than the doctrine that treaties are the supreme law of the land. Whenever such a question has been presented for the decision of the British Court there has never been any hesitancy in deciding that a treaty was the highest act of sovereignty, and to violate any provision of a treaty justly destroyed confidence in the honour of the nation.

There is a special provision in the Constitution of the United States which says that treaties are the supreme law of the land, and while Great Britain has no written constitution it is no less clear by the decisions of her Courts that treaties are of the fundamental laws of the British Empire.

And there is no page in the history of China's relations with Western nations to show that she has ever faltered in observing treaty rights. To the credit of China be it said that she has never pledged her word in a treaty when she has not been faithful and loyal to that word. Amid misfortunes in war and aggressions upon her rights in peace China has still remained true to her treaty obligations, and only desires that other nations respect their treaty obligations with her and do not request one of her officials to violate the provision of a treaty at the instance of an alleged creditor in a civil action against one of her subjects. China does not wish your Honour to be the agency of such a reproach upon her good name; and if a British subject was to enter into an agreement with a subject of China that the agreement so entered into was to be governed by Chinese law will it be contended, if such a case was before the British Court at Shanghai, that the Chief Justice of that Court would be governed in the hearing and determination of it by Chinese law? I do not think that the worthy jurist who presides over that Court would entertain such a proposal for a moment nor do I think that the British Consul-General who now sits with your Honour, would give his assent.

The Chief Justice nor his associate would ever allow any law but British law to be administered in a British Court over which they preside, when in violation of a treaty; and if asked to do so would doubtless quote the very provision I have quoted to your Honour to prove that British law governed British Courts in China. Wherever an Anglo-Saxon flag covers a Court there Anglo-Saxon law is administered, but Anglo-Saxon justice does not ask your Honour to violate a treaty.

I specially beg the consideration of your Honour to another principle of law which not only British law-writers but British Courts have held to be essential to the administration of justice:—

If a Court has no jurisdiction of the subject matter of a case, an agreement between the parties to the case that it shall, does not confer jurisdiction. Unless the law was careful in defining the jurisdiction of Courts, and keeping them within the limits of the definition, there would be uncertainty in legal proceedings and justice would have no citadel of strength for her protection. And in the case of Elliott *vs.* Royal Exch. Ass. Co. (L.R. 2 Ex. 237, 243) the British Court decided that no agreement between parties could oust the jurisdiction of a Court or deprive a party of his action, and in Duverfier *vs.* Hellower, 1.C.E. and in 39, Lord Tenterden, one of the most distinguished of British judges, said:—The question in the case here alluded to comes to this:—"Can a man have the benefit of a bond by the conditions of which he undertakes to violate law? It seems to me," said Lord Tenterden, "that it would not be according to the principles of the law of England which is a law of reason and justice, to allow a man to maintain an action under such circumstances."

I have cited your Honour two decisions of the British Courts both bearing on the question under immediate consideration, and conclusively sustaining the doctrine that an agreement between parties can neither confer jurisdiction upon a Court nor oust a Court of jurisdiction, and that a bond with a condition in violation of law cannot be enforced.

Your Honour will see that British Courts would not permit the plaintiff to do what he would have your Honour to permit him to do, and the law against the plaintiff is stronger than stated in the decisions cited, for in 2 Rose, 351, Lord Eldon, another distinguished British judge, said, that "it is quite clear that a Court of Justice can give no assistance to the enforcement of contracts which the law of the land has interdicted." In the case before your Honour the plaintiffs not only contract, in violation of the treaty, which is the supreme law of the land, but they contend that your Honour shall consent for them to overturn the law of this land and substitute for it the law of their land; they want your Honour to decide that a subject of China has the power to say that he will not be governed by the laws of China, that whenever he chooses such subject can by special agreement divest himself of the operation of the laws of China, deny that those laws apply to him, and place himself beyond their reach.

The defendant never intended to enter into any such agreement, he never meant to place his rights in this case under foreign law, and as ignorance of law does not excuse, the plaintiffs knew that their alleged special agreement with the defendant was illegal and void from the beginning. All persons are presumed to know what the law is, and no one is allowed to plead ignorance of law in excuse or defence of a violation of it. There would be no safety for life or property if one could violate the law and go into Court and defend himself by saying he did not know what the law was. And when the alleged special agreement was entered into between the plaintiff and defendant the law says that they knew it was in violation of a law which Great Britain and China had made, which their subjects in China were to obey and by which they were to be governed, and neither the plaintffs nor the defendant can plead ignorance of the treaty provision which is the supreme law between the two empires named. In Armstrong *v.* Armstrong, Seley, and K., 64, Lord Brougham, a British Judge and Statesman, said: "An unlawful agreement can convey no rights in any Court to either party and will not be enforced either in law or equity."

In connection with the legal doctrine that ignorance of law does not excuse, it may be stated that ignorance of a fact does excuse, and in Pollard *v.* Bank of England (L.R. 62, B. 623) the British Courts decided the principle that where money is paid under the influence of a mistake existing, or upon the supposition that a specific fact is true which turns out to be untrue, the money so paid can be recovered by the party paying it, and there is no principle more clearly established than that the withholding of a material fact, or a misleading representation, makes null and void the contract. If I have satisfied your Honour that the construction given to the provision of the treaty quoted is the construction it should bear, and I do not think there can be any doubt, then it follows that this is a Court of China and in the exercise of its functions is to be guided by Chinese law. But there is another view of the treaty which your Honour may consider as bearing upon a proper adjudication of this case, and the official communication from one of your predecessors, and which the plaintiff has referred to, gives importance to the view.

As I have stated, that as the commercial relations between British and Chinese subjects were provided for by the treaty, it is consequently to the treaty that your Honour must look to ascertain the nature and extent of those relations. It is proper that the treaty should be carefully examined in order to be informed what kind of mercantile pursuits between Chinese and British subjects were contemplated.

In the treaty signed at Nanking on the 29th of August, 1842, and the ratifications of which were exchanged at Hongkong on the 26th of June, 1843, it is provided that British subjects shall be allowed to reside at certain ports, naming them, of China, "for the purpose of carrying on their mercantile pursuits," and in examining the treaty your Honour will find that the expressions "mercantile pursuits" and "mercantile transactions" are the expressions employed by the two treaty-making Empires to define the nature of the business to be carried on between their respective subjects. In the communication from Liu Taotai to the British Consul-General, your predecessor decided that he would not try a case between a subject of China and a subject of a foreign power when the facts convinced him that the treaty between the governments of the two nationals had been violated. Liu Taotai mentioned the case of a Chinaman and a Russian who started business together at Tientsin but were forbidden by the Tsungli Yamên to proceed with it, and Liu Taotai further states the Government of China strictly forbids foreigners from participating in Chinese companies.

In this connection Mr. Hanson particularly emphasised the statement that both Chinese and foreigners were owners of shares in the Cotton Mills at Shanghai, and meant to impress your Honour with the supposed serious consequences should it be decided that such ownership was illegal.

No one knows better than Mr. Hanson that it is the function of a Court to construe the law, and that it cannot be guided in the consideration of a treaty whether it should not have been made or whether a law should or should not have been enacted.

Your Honour understands that it is no province of this Court to say whether China and Great Britain should not have made a treaty prohibiting their respective subjects from associating in business ar allowing such association, but your Honor will examine the records of your *yamên* and the decrees of your Emperor, and by the aid of your own good judgment, then decide as you may feel authorised.

If the treaty prohibited the plaintiff and defendant from associating in business or allowed it, it was their duty to have known it, and they cannot say they did not know what the law says they should have known, and neither would have the right to complain should your Honour respect the precedent made by your predecessor in office.

One of the great dangers to the safety of society is the spirit of innovation, there are too many new laws being made to govern the world and the desire to override precedents and for frequent change has filled the seas with battleships and converted empires and kingdoms into military camps. The long life of China is due to her observance of precedents, and for five thousand years she has survived attacks from without and from within because she always recurred to fundamental principles.

If a treaty is not what it ought to be that is no question for a Court, whose duty it is to decide what the treaty means and leave it to the Governments interested to amend it as in their wisdom may seem best. And if I had purchased a share in a Cotton Mill company at Shanghai as the defendant did in a Trust and Loan Company, and that Cotton Mill company had afterwards gone into the Silk Filature business, as did the Trust and Loan Co. into the banking business, there is no law that would compel me to pay any call, but the law would compel the Cotton Mill Co. to return to me what I had paid.

I have now arrived at that stage of the case where the defendant denies that the plaintiff is a corporation as alleged in the petition, and as the evidence is chiefly documentary I shall analyse the documents introduced by the plaintiff to determine if they support his contention that he is a corporation with the right to bring an action in this Court to recover any amount of the defendant. China has no statute law as Great Britain. but there are certain great principles of justice which pervade alike the jurisprudence of all countries and the principles which Confucius has taught his countrymen to shape their conduct by in all relations are not surpassed in equity and law by the teachings of any other law-giver or jurist ancient or modern. Right has been right throughout all ages and modern teachers of ethics have drawn their most beautiful conceptions of right from the sages of antiquity.

If the plaintiff expects to recover what he claims in his petition it devolves upon him to satisfy your Honour that he has conformed to law and withheld no fact material to a fair understanding of his dealings with the defendant.

The plaintiff alleges that he was incorporated under the laws of Great Britain and the first inquiry therefore is, does the evidence before the Court prove the allegation? The defendant denies it as the plaintiff is doing business and the issue is thus squarely presented and I will now examine the documents.

In 1863 the British Parliament passed an Act for the incorporation, regulation, registration, and winding up of trading companies and other associations. This Act is called the Companies Act, and on December 6th, 1889, the "Trust and Loan Company of China, Japan and the Straits, Ld.," was incorporated.

One of the first acts of this company was the publication of a prospectus, setting forth the nature and object of the company, the number and value of the shares intended to be created, and the amount of capital required. The public was then invited to subscribe to the company and by advertisement and circular persons were invited to enter into an agreement to take shares in a company such as described. In *Lindley on Companies*, a British law book of the highest authority, page 19, your Honour will find that such a course is one of the first steps in the formation of a company. The same British authority says that "the prospectus issued to the public must be regarded as the basis of the agreement which results from an application for shares by a person who has applied for them and had shares allotted to him."

The prospectus published by the Trust and Loan Company of China, Japan and he Straits, Ld. is before the Court, and it, explicitly and clearly sets forth the nature and objects of the Company. It gives the amount of capital supposed to be required and the value of shares intended to be created, and invites the public to subscribe. As an inducement for subscribers the prospectus "invites the attention of the public to recent events in China which encourage the introduction of capital to aid in developing the natural resources of the empire." As an additional inducement the prospectus says: "That this company will enter upon a new and extensive field for the investment of capital, and the resources should find employment outside of the operations which have hitherto been undertaken by the existing banks and local offices in China, Japan and the Straits. These from the nature of their constitution have been unable to avail themselves of many profitable and sound investments that are offered in those countries. This company will be able to take up branches of business hitherto neglected, and thus supply a demand for new capital which has been long felt and daily increasing."

Your Honour will observe that I have quoted the very words of the prospectus, and in order that there might not be any doubt in the public mind as to the scope or the power of the company or the nature of the business it proposed to engage in, you will also observe that the memorandum of the association of the company is printed on the same sheet with the prospectus and both are submitted to the public at the same time.

The prospectus and memorandum were intended to set forth the nature and objects of the company's business, and the British law book, to which I have referred, says that is one of the first steps in the formation of a company, that, is, to inform the public what the company is formed for, in order that those who buy its shares may know the full nature of the business the company proposes to engage in.

And now your Honour has only to read the prospectus and memorandum to ascertain the business which the company was organised to do. Nothing can be plainer or easier, and *Lindley on Companies* distinctly lays down the rule that the prospectus is the basis of the agreement between the company and those who buy its shares. In other words the prospectus says to the public that the company proposes to do a certain kind of business and it offers its shares to the public upon the pledge of faith and honour made in the prospectus, and upon that pledged faith and honour the company sells its shares and the purchaser is thus made to feel assured, by a written declaration of the company, of what he is buying and for what purpose.

The English language was never employed to make a meaning clearer than this prospectus proves that the company did not propose, or intend to do a banking business, and that it did not intend to impress the public it would enter such a field for the investment of its capital, but on the other hand it was expressly declared that the capital and resources of the company should find employment outside of operations of existing banks and local insurance offices in China, Japan and the Straits, and that the company solicited subscriptions because of its intention to operate outside of the line of those banking institutions, disclaiming the right to engage in the banking or any kindred business at all. The evidence is conclusive that the company promised those who would purchase its shares that it would not engage in the banking business and it distinctly declared that the business it contemplated was outside of the banking business, and that the capital and resources of the company would not be employed on any other line of business similar to banking.

In view of such published declaration, as to its intentions and purpose, shares were sold as the shares of a Trust and Loan Company and the defendant became a purchaser of some of the shares. It was never understood that the defendant was buying shares in a company incorporated to do a banking business, it was plainly understood that the shares were sold in a Trust and Loan Company whose prospsctus and memorandum of association, as well as whose act of incorporation confined it to the trust and loan business only and no other. In this connection of the case your honor may enquire that if the defendant bought shares in the Trust and Loan Company of China Japan and the Straits, Limited, why is this action brought against him in the name of the Bank of China, Japan and the Straits, Limited, and why is this last name instead of the former printed on the shares he holds. It will not be difficult to answer such an inquiry and I will answer from the record which the plaintiff himself has made.

According to the Act of the British Parliament called the "Companies Act"—a company incorporated under it can change its name by observing certain formalities and the change in this case was made as follows:—

The first annual general meeting of the directors of the Trust and Loan Company of China, Japan and the Straits was held at the Cannon Street Hotel, London, on the 12th of February, 1891. At that meeting the Chairman gave notice of an extraordinary general meeting to be held at the conclusion of the general ordinary meeting and that a resolution would be proposed to change the name of the company into that of the Bank of China, Japan and the Straits, Limited. The resolution was in these words: "That the name of the Company be changed to the Bank of China, Japan and the Straits, Limited." The name was to be changed and instead of the Trust and Loan Company of China, Japan, and the Straits, Limited, the company thereafter was to be known as the Bank of China Japan and the Straits, Limited. But there is no proof before the Court that this meeting of Directors was legally called or that the number was present to make it a legal body under the act of incorporation. The plaintiff has not proved that these Directors who changed the name were a legally constituted body at the time and it is incumbent upon the plaintiff to prove it. The defendant has denied it.

The substitution of the word "Bank" for the words "Trust and Loan" occurred to the directors as naturally calculated to give rise to the query, if by change of name a departure from the original scope of the business was contemplated, and this was anticipated by notice "that the business of the company would continue on the lines which have hitherto been followed."

I beg that your Honour will carefully note the notice, the words of which I have quoted. It was a notice to all shareholders that although the name of the company was changed the business would not be changed, and if there could be the possibility of a doubt as to the meaning of the notice it would be wholly removed by the explanation of the chairman made at the time. I will quote the very words of the Chairman as follows:—

"As mentioned in our report a change of name does not imply a change in the intended business of the company and no alteration in the Articles is necessary on that account: It is not the object and is not the intention of the company to interfere with the business of banking establishments in the East, with which the board have worked in the most friendly accord and your directors will continue to aim at working in perfect harmony with existing institutions."

Can language be more explicit and meaning clearer that no change in the business of the company was intended or contemplated in any sense? The Chairman states in the presence of the directors that as it is not intended to change the business no alteration in the articles of incorporation was necessary. It was only necessary to report to the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies the action of the directors in passing a resolution changing the name of the company, but had it been proposed or intended to change the business the law prescribes that a new act of incorporation would have been required. Had the company proposed to go into the banking business it would have been prohibited, by law from engaging in a business not allowed by the act under which it was incorporated and the act under which it was incorporated did not allow it when selling shares to do a banking business.

Your Honour will now see why this action was brought in the name of the Bank of China, Japan and the Straits, a name that was given to the company in substitution for the first name, but at the time it was given the directors passed a resolution that the name and nothing else was changed, and with the assent of the directors the chairman explained that to be the meaning of the resolution.

At the time the defendant purchased his shares the business of the company was published to the world as that of a Trust and Loan Company, and publication was made under the seal of the company and approved by resolution passed and made by and before the directors. At this time there was not a word or line in the act incorporating the company authorising it to engage in other than a trust and loan business, but in violation of its charter, in violation of its promise when soliciting purchasers of its shares, and in violation of its published declaration when its shares were placed upon the market for sale, it engages in a business *ultra vires*, all these involving the company into insolvency, and now comes into this Court asking your Honour to drive to pecuniary ruin the innocent purchasers of its shares who confided in its word.

When the company followed the legitimate business of its charter it was prosperous, when it departed from the line of that business its operations resulted disastrously. Had its reverses come while doing the business it promised the defendant it would do, when he became the owner of certain shares, he would have faced the obligations that might have been his to discharge, but there is no law, no equity, and no justice that enjoins anyone to bankrùpt himself and family at the instance of an alleged creditor whose acts have misled and whose representations have deceived.

There is no principle of law more firmly engrafted in British and all jurisprudence than the principle that a right of action cannot arise out of a fraud, and that he who expects equity must do equity, and when from the documents the plaintiff himself offers, your honour must conclude that he has promised to do one kind of business and done another, in ruin of the interests of those who trusted him, the defendant is warranted in asking your honour to dismiss this action.

If incorporated companies are licensed with judicial permission to propose to the public, when wishing to sell their shares, that they are going to do business on a certain line, and after selling their shares do business on a different line, thus rendering the shares worthless, commercial immorality instead of commercial honour will triumph to the destruction of legitimate business, and all business corporations and business men are interested in preventing such a calamity. I am characterising this attempt of the plaintiff to take advantage of his own wrong act in language warranted by his declarations to the public and what he admits he did subsequent to those declarations. I repeat that the plaintiff declared to the public he would do a trust and loan business only, and after the defendant purchased shares from him he goes into the banking business, and it is admitted that the plaintiff has been and is now doing a banking business in this city and with its head office at London, and the evidence proves, *ultra vires* of the act of incorporation.

The plaintiff comes into this Court and places before your honour his act of incorporation, his prospectus, his memorandum of association, and the resolution passed at a meeting of his directors all conclusively proving the nature of his business, and then in the face of such proof admits engaging in another business *ultra vires*, and in consequence rendering valueless the shares which, before engaging in this *ultra vires* business, were valuable, for at the meeting of directors when the name was changed a resolution of thanks was voted the Chairman and directors for the favourable report, "the accounts," says the resolution, "showing splendid results for the year's operations."

If it be seriously contended that any provision of the act of incorporation under which the plaintiff was doing business, when the defendant purchased shares, permitted the plaintiff to do a banking business, such provision, which is denied, is not worded in that manly and open language as plainly to confer a power upon the company with which the company itself, when seeking the sale of its shares, declared it was not vested. When there is ambiguity every principle of law interprets it against the agency responsible for it. I will cite some of the highest American and British authorities with reference to the doctrine of construction.

Bishop on Contracts 379, says:—"The whole of the written instrument, whether on one piece of paper or on detached pieces, constituting one contract, and all writings on the same subject, whether together forming one agreement, or more than one, if made simultaneously, or sometimes when even executed on different days should be looked at in interpreting each particular part . . . The language and terms of the contract will be understood in the ordinary popular sense." Writing of the general duties of all bodies politic, considered in their corporate capacity, Blackstone says that they may, like those of natural persons, be reduced to this single one, "that of acting up to the end or design, whatever it be, for which they were created by their founder" (Book I, sec. 480). And on the powers of Corporations Chancellor Kent held this language: "As to whether a charter is to be strictly or liberally construed, the true rule would seem to be, that it is to be strictly construed when the object is to determine the extent of the franchise granted, that is the scope or the objects of the corporation" (Kent's Com. vol. 12, p. 277). Chitty in his work on Contracts (p. 289) lays down the rule in these words: "So the contracts of joint stock banking corporations must in order to bind the shareholders, be made in pursuance of the authority, in that behalf, contained in the deed of settlement, for the parties who became shareholders, do so under the agreement contained in that deed. . . . The contracts of joint stock companies, incorporated by the Act of Parliament for the purpose of carrying on undertakings of a public nature, are now regulated by the provisions of 8 and 9th Vict. c. 16, s. 97, and as to these the rule is that they can only contract according to the terms in which the contract is authorised to be entered into by that Act or the special Act by which they are controlled." The rule is stated in *Parson on Contracts* with characteristic clearness: "A corporation is the creature of the law, and is only what the act of incorporation has made it, and derives all its powers from the act" (Vol. I, sec. 1, 41). The rule for the proper interpretation of a charter of corporation or a memorandum of association has been adjudicated by the Supreme Court of the United States, and the decisions in the following cases settle the doctrine: "Charters of corporations must be constructed favourably to the public and against the grantee." (Commonwealth *v.* Erie R.R. Co.) "The enumeration of powers conferred implies the exclusion of others." (Thomas *v.* West Jersey R.R. Co.) "A corporation being the creature of law, possesses only those properties which the charter of the creation confers upon it." (Dartmouth College *v.* Woodward.) "A corporation has no power except what is given by the incorporating act." (Council of Montgomery *v.* Plank Road Company.) "It is a sound principle that the specific grant of certain powers in a charter is an implied prohibition of other and distinct powers." (Now York Fire Insurance Co., *v.* Elly) "If, on a reasonable interpretation of a charter, it be fairly doubtful whether a power burdensome to the public has been granted, that power cannot be exercised." (Perrine *v.* Chesapeake and Delaware Canal Co.)

From the above decisions of the highest Court of the United States and the opinion of the ablest British and American law writers, the conclusion appears irresistible that a corporation cannot construe in its favour a doubtful provision in the articles of association, especially when the provision so construed would confer a power contrary to any claimed at, its organisation and injurious to shareholders.

What safety, what security would there be in any business if the directors of a corporation could organise it within clearly defined orbits, and then go outside of them without observance of the terms of organisation? "With respect to those acts," says *Lindley on Companies*, "which directors have no power to do at all, it must be borne in mind that trading and similar corporations which are created for certain definite purposes have no greater capacity than is conferred on them by their constitutions. They exist for certain purposes more or less defined in the instrument incorporating them but they exist for no other purposes, and a corporation created for one purpose cannot lawfully do anything which is foreign to the purpose for which alone it was created." (p. 162.) Adds the same author: "The constitution of a company as settled by its charter, Act of Parliament, memorandum of association, or deed of settlement, limits, to a certain exent, the purpose of its directors, for whatever it may or may not be competent for all the shareholders to do it certainly is not competent for the directors of the company to bind it by entering on its behalf into transactions not warranted by its constitution as settled for the time being." (d. 163).

Your Honour will see that the two great Anglo-Saxon nations have substantially the same rules for the interpretation of legal instruments, and that those rules are enforced by the Courts of both nations. I do not know what rules the laws of China provide, but your Honour knows what is just and right and that is the rule that should be enforced. Your Honour cannot be influenced by the decision of the British Court referred to in the petition. The plaintiff by acting *ultra vires* his act of incorporation was forced into insolvency and appears here in the shape of a liquidator. He was first a Trust and Loan Company, then he took the shape of a bank, and lastly that of a liquidator, and with such a record of change, resulting in financial bankruptcy, he reaches out after more innocent victims to drag in the wake of his ruin, and comes into this Court, with a foreign law, and asks you to bankrupt your countrymen to enable him to collect money he has no legal right to collect to pay salaries to support men who are drawing salaries. And whatever the facts were before the British Court, whose decision is referred to in the petition, I say to your Honour that no British Court has ever decided or ever will that a corporation, can collect money to pay debts contracted in *ultra vires* of the act of incorporation, but to the contrary the decisions of British and American Courts are uniform, and the British Court certainly would not have meant to empower the liquidator with the authority to collect illegal debts, or with greater rights than the Company would have had. It could not. An assignee in bankruptcy is authorised by the Court to collect the debts that may be owing to his bankrupt, but it will not be contended that such authorisation debars the Court, before which the assignee may sue, from deciding what debts are legal and what are illegal. The liquidator stands in the place of the company and can have no more rights than the company, and I have shown your Honour that the illegal acts of the company have destroyed all its rights.

There has very recently been another decision of a British Court in London in which it was held that a misrepresenation by a corporation not only debarred the corporation from recovering from its shareholders but gave the shareholders the right to recover from the corporation all money paid on shares. It was an action brought by a journeyman bootmaker against the London Universal Bank, and because the promoters of the bank had made misrepresenations with reference to its business, the bootmaker not only refused to pay any more money but sued the bank for what he had paid and the Court gave judgment in his favour against the bank for £2,700.

The defendant has a better cause of action against the plaintiff than has the plaintiff against him, and by the principle decided in the case just cited he would be entitled to recover.

With the permission of your Honour I respectfully submit :—

That this is a Court of China and should be governed by the laws of China.

That the plaintiff has no right to maintain his action against the defendant, because the plaintiff has violated his act of incorporation and engaged in business *ultra vires* that act, and neither in law or good morals can the plaintiff maintain suits against shareholders to compel the payment of money to enable him to pay debts which are the consequences of his own acts.

That the published declarations of the plaintiff and his subsequent acts have been such that justice of all countries would fully warrant the dismissal of this action at the plaintiff's cost.

On the conclusion of Mr. Jernigan's argument.

The Taotai adjourn Court till nine o'clock on Wednesday morning.

14th Sept.

On the assembling of the Court at nine o'clock,

Mr. Stokes said—I am now about to reply to Mr. Jernigan and in doing so I shall endeavour to follow as closely as possible the order in which he raised his points. Some of the points will probably not be touched upon in my argument but what I consider are valuable I shall reply to in that order. Mr. Jernigan said that the results of the hearings in the United States Court, the French Courts, and Danish Court are not favourable to the Bank, but on the whole more favourable to the defendants and that a decision had never been given in the British Courts that we could quote in our favour. Now with regard to the last point, that it has never been decided in a British Court that shareholders are to pay is I think the strongest evidence in our favour that could exist. Out of hundreds of shareholders who held shares in England and were put in the same unfortunate position as the defendant not one in a hundred has attempted to oppose the question of liability, and so far as the English, French, and Danish Courts are concerned not a single shareholder took it into his own Court because he knew he must fail if he did so. The fact is that the whole of the decisions—and one has only to refer to an authentic law book—*Lindley on Companies*—are against the shareholders, and I shall come to those decisions and quote them a little later on in my argument. Now with regard to the various Courts, there was a decision given in the United States Consular Court here which was in favour of a shareholder. That was a case where a shareholder was asked to pay the call and the decision given in the United States Consular Court was that he was asked to pay the call for the purpose of doing exchange business and the Court held that this exchange business was *ultra vires* to the company and that the call could not be enforced against a shareholder.

Mr. Brenan—The way the interpreter is putting 'exchange business' is to buy gold. Mr. Fung Yee, however, has just put him right.

Mr. Stokes—The Judge of the American Court held in effect this; there was a partnership to do a certain business; that then some of the partners wanted to do other business and then this partner came and complained to the Court that he did not wish to pay his call on the ground that he did not wish to do that business, and Mr. Jernigan held that the other partners could not compel him to pay for doing that business and the Court held that the other partners could not force the one partner to pay up for doing business that he did not wish to engage in. That was the state of affairs, and whether that decision was right or wrong I am not questioning for a moment. But that was an entirely different position from the present one. The present position is where partners engaged in a business; the partnership has failed and the liquidator comes forward on behalf of the creditors and wants to collect their money from the partners to pay their debts. So that the present position of affairs is decidedly different from what was decided upon in the United States Court, and therefore that decision is not one which can be of much assistance to your Honour, the position being entirely different. I may mention that the decision in the United States Court was never appealed against and the only reason why was that the Judge at the Court refused the appeal because he held that the amount at stake was not sufficient according to American law to take to an American Appeal Court. In the Danish Court Mr. Jernigan has admitted that the company was successful. In the French Court of Appeal the company was also successful; but Mr. Jernigan has attempted to lessen the value of that decision on the ground that it was decided on a technical point. In order to show that is not correct I produce the *North-China Herald*, January to June of 1895, page 602, in which the judgment goes on to say as follows. "As far as the bad management of the finances are concerned, the violation of the Articles of Association, the loss of a part of the capital, stated in the judgment and on which the defence of the respondent insists, these facts are not established; but if they were they would be without interest in the case." I think you will agree that so far as *ultra vires* is concerned these statements are not proved and even if they were they would not affect the judgment. And then the Judge goes on to say that although a shareholder might ask for the Company to be dissolved he could not refuse to pay the call, as the Articles of Association empower the directors to make what calls they think fit. So that so far as the French Court is concerned it took exactly an opposite view to what the American Court took here, so that if there is any guide to be found in the decisions of other Courts, these decisions are more in favour of the Bank than of the shareholder. But I want you clearly to understand my point that whilst the bank existed and was doing business, shareholders as against Directors might have certain rights and take up certain positions; but when it comes to fail it is only a question between the bank and their creditors, and the liquidator only represents the creditors. The liquidator as representing the creditors has nothing to do with whether the partners or members of the corporation carried it on well or badly, or rightly or wrongly. That was a matter which interested the partners a good deal as between themselves, but when once the business has failed all the partners have to do is to pay up the call to those who make it. And therefore to say that the rights of the liquidator are not greater than those of the shareholder and that he has no better position is entirely a mistake. Mr. Jernigan would appear to wish the Court to believe that the company in which the shareholders were concerned is still doing the business; but the company is absolutely dead and bankrupt, and the liquidator is in the same position as if the matter of partnership had come before your Honour and you had appointed some officer to take charge of the company, and collect the money and pay it over to the creditors. The liquidator has been appointed by the Court in England, according to the order which is in your Honour's possession, put in by Mr. Hanson, and he has been authorised by the Court to collect from each shareholder such moneys as are owing by the shareholder in respect of his shares. And it is absolutely no defence to that action for Mr. Jernigan to say the company in which the defendants had shares carried on a business which it was not authorised to do and which was *ultra vires*. The liquidator's answer to that is simply, "I have nothing to do with that. If you the defendants, the shareholders, can prove what you say to be true, then you may bring an action against your directors, for doing such a business. But these directors were appointed by the shareholders and the shareholders are bound by their acts. You are bound by their acts and if the directors have exceeded their powers you had better try and prove it against them." That is what the liquidator would say and quite true too; and he would also say: "I now represent the creditors who have deposited money and I have to get the money for them." Just the same I maintain as if there was an ordinary partnership and as if one of the partners had asked Mr. Woo Chee-dong or Mr. Wai Pow-kee to become a partner, and then that being so Mr. Woo, or Mr. Wai had found they were doing business which he did not think they had a right to do, which would be no answer to outsiders who had claims against the partnership. And your Honour will see the scheme of liquidation, —the agreement which appointed the liquidator—has had the full sanction of the Court of England, and everything he does is under the sanction of the Court in England; and he, the liquidator, is the only person who has the right to claim against these shareholders. Mr. Jernigan has made a great point of the change of the original business of the Trust and Loan Company to the business which these defendants complain of. Now with regard to that I differ entirely from Mr. Jernigan. I consider that at this stage of the case, the company in liquidation has nothing to do with the Court. He would try and impress upon your Honour that these directors have acted in a very unworthy and improper manner, and that these defendants, these shareholders, have been made the victims of it. I think the facts are entirely different. The directors in the first place before they undertook the banking business consulted the highest legal authorities in England and were advised that they had a right to do this banking business. As a matter of fact the Trust and Loan Company had done a very similar business and it was the intention of the company that they should do that class of business. They did not intend to do it on quite the same lines as banking business but the very fact that the company borrowed money in gold in England converted it into silver and sent it out to China shows that exchange business was part of the natural business of the company. So that it was only an extension of a particular branch of their business. Therefore does it not stand to reason that if that had been contrary to the constitution of the company all the shareholders in England would have brought it forward? Again Mr. Jernigan in his address would have led you to believe that the company was prosperous and that when those shares were taken by the defendants they put their good money into a prosperous concern and the directors by their wickedness lost all their money for them; that these defendants, these confiding shareholders, were misled by all the glowing statements in the prospectus and that they purchased their shares in face of the accounts held out in that prospectus. Nothing could be farther from the facts.

The defendants bought these shares in the company when the market price for the shares was about eighty tael cents a share. In fact the defendant Woo Chee-dong bought his shares in the business of the company—150 shares—for $125. (Share Certificates at this point handed to the Taotai.) These are the transactions of Wai Pow-kee, and Woo Chee-dong and I ask His Honour to look at them. These are the original transfers and you will find that Wai or Woo never paid more than two taels a share. Anyhow, your Honour now has the originals to look at and you will see that whereas the par value at the time these were issued was about seven taels, or twenty-five shillings, two taels was the most ever paid for a share by Wai or Woo and many of them were purchased for considerably less, as low as 80 tael cents, so that when Mr. Jernigan comes forward and says they were relying on the glowing facts in the prospectus whilst the fact really was that the shares were as low down as 80 tael cents, his statement is without any foundation. As a matter of fact they never saw the prospectus. It had been issued years before they bought the shares. They simply bought the shares as anybody else buys in the market as a speculation. I am speaking, of course, of this class of shares. Now at the time they bought these shares of course it is quite obvious that the affairs of the bank were in a very bad state, otherwise the shares would never have fallen so low. Mr. Jernigan would make you believe that the ill-fortune and bad state of affairs fell on the company after the exchange business commenced, that is six months after these shares were puchased. But that is the best evidence of all as to whether the bad times had fallen on the bank before these shares were bought or afterwards. The report to which Mr. Jernigan referred as to the flourishing condition of the affairs of the company was quite correct. But that report was published in January 1891 and that was the result of operations when exchange remained high. Exchange had then shown no signs of the fall which followed in 1892 and 1893 and which ruined the old trust and loan business. It not only caused all the bank securities out here to fall heavily but the large deposits of gold which had been paid to the Trust and Loan Company in England and remitted out to China in silver meant enarmous losses to the Bank.

Mr. Jernigan—If your Honour pleases, through the courtesy of Mr. Stokes, I am allowed to interrupt him for a moment. Mr. Stokes has given to the Court a detailed account of the position of the bank. Such detailed accounts cannot be given by lawyers. If Mr. Stokes was a witness in this case I should without hesitation have believed the statements he has made, but lawyers have no right in Court to go into detailed statements, as I understand Mr. Stokes is about to do, unless there is evidence before the Court, and such explanation of that evidence must be confined to that evidence. I have confined myself to the documents before the Court and if I have gone outside in any way in the discussion of these documents, of course, what I have said must not have any weight.

Mr. Stokes—Don't make a speech, Mr. Jernigan.

Mr. Jernigan—Mr. Stokes has closed his case, and must confine his argument to what is before the Court.

Mr. Stokes—I am drawing my inferences from the report of the meeting of directors which Mr. Jernigan has quoted in his speech. The meeting held in 1891 showed how they derived their profits and how satisfactory their investments were in China. I say it was in the next two years when exchange fell when all their losses took place, because as they had borrowed their money in England in gold and converted it into silver and sent it here they had to hand it back to their depositors in England in gold. But the fact remains that the best evidence is that these losses occurred before the defendants purchased these shares as the price at which the defendants purchased them shows. And I repeat what Mr. Hanson has told you that ever since the bank has done banking business it has recovered lost ground, and all that Mr. Jernigan says about the cruel position these shareholders have been placed in is pure sentiment and falsehood, for the best policy the directors ever adopted was banking business and no British shareholder has ever been found to try to get out of his losses by saying it was outside the powers of the company. They faced their losses and their liabilities and did not try to squeeze out of them at the expense of their fellow shareholders, putting their burdens on to the shoulders of the other partners. Even if Mr. Jernigan's contention was correct, that the company was doing business *ultra vires* it was his business to show the losses resulting from it, and that for that reason he should be exempt from payment. But he produces no such evidence. On the contrary the evidence is all in the other direction. Mr. Hanson has quoted to you the independent shareholders' report and then Mr. Jernigan says the report has no weight at all. I can tell your Honour that report was made in pursuance of an order made by one of the Judges of our Courts and your Honour will find reference to it and the whole facts set out in the *Times* of the 29th of July, 1895. I said and shall show you some cases which would prove that in English law it would be hopeless to try to take up the position these defendants are doing. I am reading from the fifth edition of *Lindley on Company Law* page 82. It is a case called Holt's case, where the managing director of a company induced Holt to become a director and take shares in a certain company which he did by misinforming him as to the nature and condition of the company. When the company failed Holt was ordered to pay notwithstanding. Now that was a case where a director had induced a man to become a shareholder and director and buy shares by all sorts of false statements producing all sorts of glowing accounts, but when the company fails and is wound up Holt has to pay his share. Then there is a case called Barrett's case where the Directors made a false report to the meeting of shareholders. It was said that the report was sent to each shareholder and one shareholder on the face of the report bought a lot more shares. He was held to be a contributory and had to pay. And there are several cases to exactly the same effect and the reason of it is quite clear that it was a point and matter between the partners which could not affect the other creditors. And this point I wish to impress on Your Honour. You cannot interfere with the rights of the creditors as represented by the liquidator. Well, Mr. Jernigan speaking on another subject about the committee of inspection to assist and aid the liquidator in preparing this list of contributories said that such a committee of inspection was necessary, to make good the liquidator's acts. I say, sir, such a committee is a child, or rather family, of Mr. Jernigan's brain.

Mr. Brenan, amid considerable laughter, remarked that the interpreter had described the last sentence as "a committee of Mr. Jernigan's small children," a humorous error which was at once rectified.

Mr. Stokes, continuing, said—Mr. Jernigan referred to Liu Taotai's decision that the Chinese could not be partners in foreign companies. If that were held to be law it would be a great disaster to many Chinese holding shares in paying companies here. That they do hold shares is a matter of common notoriety and newspaper publicity. They have done so openly, not only as shareholders but as directors and for years Chinese and Chinese officials have been drawing their dividends; and to hold now in a case where a company has met with reverses that the Chinese cannot be shareholders is contrary to all sense of right, unless it can be shown by express words, in some treaty, convention, or royal edict, that Chinese are prohibited from becoming such shareholders. Such a decision would be contrary to the custom of all nations for every other nationality is allowed by its Government to become a shareholder in such companies, and unless China gives express notice by royal edict or in some other mode recognised by the Ministers of other Powers, that Chinese cannot become such members, it cannot be argued that China is acting other than in accordance with international law. The fact of there being no such edict and the constant publicity given by both Chinese and foreign newspapers to Chinese being shareholders of foreign companies all proves the contrary to this argument of the defendant, and oddly enough on the very day Mr. Jernigan was advancing his argument news had been received from Hankow that Viceroy Chang had authorised the establishment of a tea factory with foreign and Chinese shareholders. That news came to us on that very day—12th September—and is mentioned in the *North-China Daily News*.

Mr. Jernigan—Mr. Stokes has quoted newspapers as valid. That is no authority at all.

Mr. Stokes—I have no doubt that the matter is within His Honour's own knowledge.

Mr. Jernigan—But it has no weight at all here.

Mr. Stokes—Another point in my argument is that raised by Mr. Jernigan of the fact of this suit being instituted in the name of the Bank of China, Japan and the Straits, Limited. Mr. Jernigan said this company the Bank of China, Japan and the Straits, Limited, had no legal existence because all the formalities had not been complied with. And I refer to that because he says the defendants have denied the legal existence of this company; we have no proof of it and that it is incumbent on us to prove it. If your Honour will look at the certificate of incorporation signed by the Registrar of Companies and put in amongst the documents here, your Honour will see that the certificates are regular, and by the Act of Parliament which regulates these companies it is laid down that the Registrar's certificate of registration which he is required to give is conclusive evidence of all the statutory conditions having been complied with. Not only evidence, but it is made by Act of Parliament conclusive evidence that every step has been regularly taken, and therefore it is impossible for anyone to come here now and say the company was not properly registered according to law. The Act of Parliament 1862, sections 18 and 191, lays that down clearly and the liquidator is doing his work of liquidation under the sanction of the Court and with its authority, and he brings this action in the name of the company under the sanction of the Court. I have to express regret to your Honour for the length of these arguments but it was with a wish to save all this time that we asked your Honour to decide the point whether the special contract was binding or not which the shareholders made to abide by English Law. It was with the view of saving the whole of this argument that we wished your Honour to decide this point. I have now arrived at the last point of Mr. Jernigan's arguments which I have not touched on in which he argues that that contract cannot be held to be good as it is against the treaty. Mr. Jernigan argues that to give effect to a contract like that would be to go in conflict with the treaty but our contention is that no such conflict arises. The section of the Convention of Chefoo which Mr. Jernigan quotes leaves each country to decide such points as arise under that section, according to its own laws, England as if she were in England and China so far as regards her own subjects as if that section had not been made. That section does not confer upon China any peculiar privilege or any peculiar disability in regard to her own subjects. Moreover your Honour will see that the whole section Mr. Jernigan lays so much stress on was intended to apply to the criminal jurisdiction of the Court in particular. Those who were framing it were at the time considering the question of punishments for crimes, and your Honour will see that for many paragraphs before that the whole subject dealt with has been crime. The parties were not considering contracts or civil matters at all. Your Honour will see under the section quoted by Mr. Jernigan that the law administered will be the law of the nationality of the officer trying the case. That is the meaning of the words *hui t'ing* in Article 16 of the Treaty of Tientsin; your Honour will see *hui t'ing* is mentioned in sections 16 and 17 of the Treaty of Tientsin whereas in the Chefoo Convention I was discussing it is in the paragraph quoted by Mr. Jernigan and expressly refers to Article 16 where crimes are referred to and where Chinese may be guilty of any criminal acts towards British subjects. Therefore what I want to point out to your Honour when he mentions Article 16 and does not refer to Article 17, is that it is clear that the minds of the framers were only directed to the question of crime, and that so far as that section is intended to explain the Tientsin Treaty it is intended to refer only to section 16, and therefore with regard to matters mentioned under section 17 of the Tientsin Treaty China remains just the same as she was before the making of the treaty, that is to say, that if disputes take place of such a nature that the Consul cannot arrange them amicably a Chinese official must be appealed to and the matter settled equitably. Mr. Jernigan has gone as far back in his speech to Confucius but I shall go back no further than the admirable dictum with regard to law which your Honour pronounced on the first day, that it was contrary to Chinese law for a person to do one thing and say another, and all I ask your Honour to decide on that ground is that the Chinese have made an express contract which has been put in that they will abide by English law on any questions or difference arising. That is what they have said and that is what we ask you to make them do. Amongst Mr. Jernigan's authorities he quoted a number which were in contradiction to those which we quoted on this subject but in not one case that he quoted was there an express agreement between the parties as to which law shall govern the contract and it would be impossible for him to find a case to support his argument on that point. One of the cases which he quoted was to this effect if I remember rightly that nothing could be put into such a contract which was in violation of any law of the country in which it was signed, that is to say if such a contract was injurious to public rights or violated the public law it could not be enforced, but we submit that this contract violates no law or policy of China. Your Honour will remember a case that was decided, some time ago, between the steamers *Pekin* and *Fushun*. The *Fushun* was a steamer belonging to the China Merchants', and she ran into the *Pekin* and sank her. The China Merchants', many of whom as your Honour knows are mandarins, agreed the question should be decided according to English law and the reason of it was very intelligible and very sensible. There is a provision of law that where a ship is found to blame for running down another steamer her liability is limited to £8 per ton for every ton of hers. In that case the China Merchants' took advantage of that provision of English law and agreed to be bound by it and Sir Nicholas Hannen who decided the case gave them the advantage of it.

I am glad to be able to inform your Honour there is only one more point that I have to trouble you with. Mr. Jernigan in his speech stated that supposing parties agreed to be bound by a Chinese agreement or Chinese law that in the British Court of Justice Sir Nicholas Hannen would not enforce such an agreement but I fortunately happen to have a case here which is conclusive and I ask your Honour to act in the same manner towards England as England has acted towards the Chinese. Now although there was no special agreement in this case that the matter should be decided according to Chinese law the English Court held that the question would have to be decided according to Chinese law and gave it very much in favour of the Chinese in the case. The case was decided as I am able to prove to you by Chief Justice French in which the Judge of the English Court held he must be governed by Chinese law. It was a case where Chinese had leased land at Foochow to British subjects and in this lease there was no provision as to whether English law or Chinese law should be binding so that it was not so strong a case as this we bring to you. It was not mentioned in the contract and not expressed therein, but the Chief Justice held that the contract related to land in China and it was to be construed according to Chinese law. The question in the case was whether the lease was a temporary or a permanent one and the Chinese wanted to show that according to Chinese law it was only a temporary one. The judge in the end decided that according to Chinese law, it was only a temporary agreement. That was exactly the converse of the case we are now bringing, that is to say the Chinese were suing in an English Court and the English Court decides according to Chinese law, and I ask your Honour to reciprocate and to exchange the same international courtesy towards the plaintiffs in this Court and decide in a Chinese Court that this contract should be governed according to English law, in accordance with the express agreement of the parties. The case I quoted is reported in the *North China Herald* 1879, July to December, 22nd July, page 10, and the case is called the Wu-Shih-Shen trial and was decided between Chow Chang-kung and others against the Rev. John R. Wolfe, and this your Honour will see was after the date of the Chefoo Convention.

Mr. Jernigan—With reference to the cases I have cited as to the places where the contracts were made Mr. Stokes says there was no special agreement. In all such cases there must be a special agreement of some kind and it is always within the sound discretion of the Court to say whether there is a special agreement or not and whether that special agreement is binding. In one case I quoted it was held that the assigning of personal property by an insolvent debtor in New York in trust to pay creditors, and giving preferences, though good in New York was not good in New Jersey where it was to be enforced. That was a legal document registered in the State of New York and valid there, but when it was attempted to enforce it in the State of New Jersey the Courts held that it could not be enforced as opposed to New Jersey law. Another case is that of a man in Virginia who made a will emancipating his slaves in the State of Mississippi where it was the law that slaves could not be emancipated, and when the certified copy of the will was sent to the State of Mississippi to be enforced the State law being opposed to the emancipation of slaves held it to be invalid, and certainly it would be as little as a British Court could do in a case affecting land in China to decide it according to the laws of China. Certainly it is not contended that any British Court holding sessions in China would attempt to overturn the land laws of China.

Mr. Jernigan, continuing, said—Mr. Stokes said that the certificate of the Registrar was conclusive evidence. I am reading from the Companies' Act under which this Company was organised. "The certificate of incorporation in any company given by the Registrar shall be conclusive evidence that all the requisitions of this Act in respect of registration have been complied with." It says that the document now before your Honour has been properly registered and that is all the Companies Act says it shall say. It cures no past defects and forgives no past sins. It simply says this paper has been registered in this office and that is all it says and all it means; and if any Court was to say it meant anything else it would say what no principle of law would sustain. I speak again to your Honour in reply to what Mr. Stokes has said. There is no certificate of any committee following the list of contributories before you. The assent of the committee of inspection is absolutely necessary to make that list of contributories valid. And Mr. Stokes says that if this company has acted *ultra vires*, it is incumbent upon me to show the bad results following.

Mr. Hanson—I would ask Mr. Jernigan to state his authority for saying that the consent of the committee of inspection is necessary to sustain the acts of the liquidator.

Mr. Jernigan—I will show it to your Honour. It is a general principle of law and always applies. And again before I go to the *ultra vires* I wish to direct the attention of your Honour to the fact with regard to this Registrar, that the very Court that appointed him the Registrar, says he shall do nothing unless he submits what he has done for the approval of that Court first. That shows he is simply a ministerial officer without authority. He is a mere machine. And now I come to reply to the statement that it is incumbent upon me to show the disastrous results following the *ultra vires*. Why, they admit in their petition that they are bankrupts. They admit in the petition they had been doing banking business and what better proof does any Court want than the fact that they come here fresh and smelling of an Insolvent Court. When Mr. Stokes undertook to explain to your Honour why they were in such financial straits, I might have laid before your Honour the proof of all these facts, but why should I question the veracity of these gentlemen? Moreover the petition not only admits to your Honour that they have done trust and loan business, and a banking business, and been in the Insolvent Court, but Mr. Hanson comes here and in all frankness says if the shareholders will contribute a little more money they will go into the banking business again. My client, this defendant, has no wish to shift any responsibility. He does not appear here with any such motive. If this company had complied with its promise this suit would not have been here and your Honour has before you the Act of Incorporation and can read it and see whether they have complied with that premise or not. The directors had no authority to consult high authorities in England and then go into a banking business. They had no authority to consult lawyers in London as to what they could do. They should have consulted their charter. There is where they derive their authority, from its constitution which defines their powers and their rights, and they have no other rights and powers except such as are given them. If Directors could go off and consult a lawyer as to what they should or should not do and then bankrupt shareholders in consequence, can it be said that the shareholder who resists such conduct is actuated by motives to shift responsibilities? Everything the liquidator does is under the approval of the British Court and the liquidator must report his actions for the approval of the British Court. British Courts are too sensitive of the rights of people and the rights belonging to property to give their approval in advance of any official's action, and this British Court, if your Honour will examine these papers carefully, expressly instructs this liquidator to make his report. With reference to the decision of the French Court at Saigon it expressly says, as I stated to your Honour, that the questions decided in the United States Consular Court did not affect the point at issue before that Court, and there is a special Convention between France and Great Britain, dated April 30th 1862, with reference to similar cases. The French Court acted up to that Convention and I must ask your Honour to act up to the Convention between China and Great Britain, which is the Chefoo Convention, and that points out to your Honour that this is a Chinese Court governed by Chinese law. The Convention between France and Great Britain was that British law would govern in certain cases. If that Convention said that it was right that the French Court should be governed by British law then I say it is right that this should be governed by Chinese law, and if the Chefoo Convention, as Mr. Stokes argued, referred to criminal cases only, what is he doing here with a civil action? But to come here and ask your Honour to violate a Convention made between your country and Great Britain, and ask it in a spirit of apprehension that justice cannot be obtained here, is not only an indelicate request but it is not a fair estimation as to what justice is in China. All these cases that have been quoted to your Honour are before your Honour and you have the right, as all Courts have, after this argument is finished, to reserve your judgment in connection with your Associate, the British Consul-General, and consult with him as to the time you will deliver this judgment, and deliver it in accordance with your understanding of the merits of this case. I hold that a Chinese Court can administer justice and decide upon rights as well as any other Court and I only want your Honour to do what is right and nothing more.

Mr. Hanson—With regard to the question of registration the Act says a certificate of incorporation given at any time to any company registered in pursuance to this part of the Act shall be conclusive evidence that all the requisitions with regard to registration under the Act have been complied with, and that the company is authorised to be registered under this Act as a limited or an unlimited company as the case may be. And in referring to those sections of the Act, Mr. Lindley says "registration incorporates the company and the registrar's certificate of registration is conclusive evidence that all the requisitions of the Act of Parliament have been complied with. The contention that they have not been complied with cannot in the face of the certificate deny the existence of the company. Nor does the fact that the company was fraudulently formed deprive the company of its certificate or its corporate character." This company has been recognised as a properly constituted company by the Danish Court, the French Court, and the American Court here. It is now being wound up with the sanction of the English Court at home, and it is absurd to suppose that the English Court at home would wind up a company that had no legal existence. As to the committee of inspection being necessary to assist the liquidator in making out the list of contributories, Mr. Jernigan has produced no authority for that statement, and it is quite inconsistent with the extracts from the Act of Parliament I read in my opening speech. My friend Mr. Stokes has dealt with the reasons and causes of the losses of the Bank and I need not add anything to what he has said on that point. It is unnecessary for our case to show the reasons which have led to the Bank being wounded up. It is sufficient for our case to show as we have done that the company is being wound up and that the winding up has received the sanction of the English Court at home and that the English Court has also sanctioned the making of this call. In referring to the case before the French Court of Appeal at Saigon Mr. Jernigan said this decision was based upon the Convention between Great Britain and France and this Convention provided that with such cases British law should apply; Mr. Jernigan had evidently not read the Convention when he made that statement. The text of the Convention is in that statement I have quoted and there is not a word that provides that British law is to apply. As I said in my opening speech the first question to be decided by the Court is whether the agreement is to be upheld or not. If it is upheld the Court can have no further doubt in the matter, as we have evidence that the English Court has declared this call to be binding. If, on the other hand, the Court does not uphold the special contract, foreigners can have no more faith in contracts made with Chinese. They can only treat them as so much waste paper.

Mr. Jernigan—One more word and that is with regard to the Registrar. Mr. Hanson read to your Honour one section. I will read the section following that read by Mr. Hanson. It is entitled "Certificate of registration when not conclusive," and it says that the Registrar has no power to explain the acts of companies. (The concluding portion was read in Chinese by the Interpreter.) The certificate is not conclusive of the powers of the company or anything of the kind.

The Taotai's Interpreter :—Having heard the arguments on both sides, His Excellency will take the matter into consideration and reserve judgment for the present.

THF MIXED COURT.

The following judgment has been delivered in this case, a full report of which appeared in our issue of the 6th instant :—

JUDGMENT.

American Mercantile Collection Agency *v.* Wei Kuei-ki.

This case is one in which the American firm, the Mercantile Collection Agency, sues a Chinese, Wei Kuei-ki, for a debt of something over Tls. 1,800, which for a long time he refused to pay. According to the testimony of the Mercantile Collection Agency this claim they bought from the Chêng Tai Lumber Co. for Tls. 900. Inquiring of the witness for the plaintiffs Wang Sung-yün he testifies that he is a shareholder or partner in the Chêng Tai and because Wei Kuei-ki was owing the Chêng Tai over Tls. 1,800 he sold the account to the Mercantile Collection Agency and received from them a cheque for Tls. 900. And according to the testimony of Wei Kuei-ki he had done business with the Chêng Tai for very many years and during these years had never entirely cleared up his accounts, that Wang Sung-yun was not the person in whose hands the business rested, that the whole amount of his debt was not more than some Tls. 400. As for the Mercantile Collection Agency, he knew nothing of it. So each testified.

On examining the Chinese law as to debts I find no statute permitting the institution of suits in this fashion by persons buying claims.

It is true that when necessary to settle his debts, a man may transfer to his creditors what claims he may have upon others. but the business of buying claims at a discount in order to make a heavy gain in their collection is not recognised and this Court can give no countenance to the practice.

The suit of the Mercantile Collection Agency is one of this sort and its claim therefore cannot be allowed.

U. K. Cheng,
Acting Magistrate.
I concur in the above :
E. T. Williams,
U.S. Vice-Consul-General.

COMFORT FOR THE OLD FOLKS.

Suppose the wheels of time could suddenly be reversed, and we could, in an instant, go back to the year 1814. Why, man, you wouldn't recognise England. You wouldn't know how to understand the things around you. You would be as completely lost as though you were whisked away and dropped on the planet Jupiter. You would find no railways in England, no telegraphs, no running water in the City houses, and mighty few of the houses themselves that are standing now. Between 1814 and 1894 the difference is as great as between 1814 and 1600. Yes; and greater.

Yet a lady who was born in 1814 writes us the following letter. She says: "In the early part of 1884 I commenced to feel weak and ailing. My appetite was bad, and after meals I had an aching pain in the chest and a most uncomfortable feeling in the stomach. My mouth tasted badly, and I spat up a sour, sickening fluid. I was much troubled with wind, belching it up frequently. It was about all I could do to get around here and there in the house.

"A woman that I knew told me of a medicine that she said had done her a great deal of good; she called it Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup. She said it would no doubt do as much for me. On hearing this I sent and got a bottle from Mr. F. Daniell's, grocer and draper, in Linton, and began to take it. I am glad to say that in a very short time I felt much better. The bad symptoms I have spoken of went away, and soon I was as strong and hearty as I had been before the trouble came on me.

"I am 80 years of age, and can do almost any kind of work easily and with comfort. I owe it to Mother Seigel's Syrup, and by taking an occasional dose when I feel ailing *it has kept me in good health for ten years.* I recommend the Syrup to all my friends, and if by printing my letter in the papers you think other persons—especially those who are advanced in life—may come to hear of the Syrup and use it, I shall be very pleased to have you do so. (Signed) Mrs. Ann Woollett, Wheeler's Lane, Linton, near Maidstone, Jan. 16, 1894."

We *do* think Mrs. Woollett's letter will do good and so you find it printed here. Now there are a great many old people in this country, some of them perhaps even older than she. And they need a gentle and good medicine like Mother Seigel's Syrup. Old age is a time when life is apt to seem a heavy thing to bear, particularly if there is more or less pain and illness. And this is sure to be the case. The stomach gives out. Old people can't digest as they once did. Their food sours and ferments in the stomach, and makes all those bad feelings that Mrs. Woollett herself had. And when they cannot eat and digest their food, of course they get weak and feeble, and have to lie in bed or sit in the corner, unable to take the air and go about for necessary exercise. Then they get to thinking they are in the way, and grow downhearted and low-spirited. Besides, they are likely to be troubled with rheumatism, which is a complaint peculiarly common to old people, and comes from a bad digestion.

Now, for curing and mitigating the ailments of old people, there is nothing in the world so good as Mother Seigel's Syrup. It doesn't sicken them and tear them all to pieces as some harsh medicines do. It operates gently and thoroughly; it doesn't, make them worse before it makes them better.

For indigestion, dyspepsia, rheumatism, and all the aches, pains, and discomforts of age, it is just right.

Mother Seigel, who discovered it, knew what her elderly friends needed—nobody better.

Well, we can't go back to 1814, and we don't want to. In spite of all the growlers and grumblers, we are better off where we are. In 1814 Mother Seigel's Syrup was never heard of; it didn't exist. But everybody know it in 1894. It is one of the great and good things of this end of the century.

(4) 5, 12 & 19se 228

Miscellaneous Intelligence.

BIRTH.

At 53, Broadway, Shanghai, on the 14th of September, 1898, the wife of Leonard J. Day, of a son.

MARRIAGE.

On the 12th of September, 1898, at the Holy Trinity Cathedral, Shanghai, by the Rev. J. Ost, Frances Maude, younger daughter of the late Barnes Dallas, to Lewis Francis Taylor, Lieut. R.N.R., only son of the late Rev. F. Taylor, of Doncaster.

DEATH.

At Copenhagen, on the 17th of September, 1898, Otto Hans Christian, only son of Mr. and Mrs. C. Chr. Sonne, 12 years of age.

PASSENGERS.

Departed.

Per str. *Sutlej*, for London—Mr. Watkins. For Hongkong—Mrs. Ransome.

Per str. *Natal*, for Nagasaki—Messrs. C. F. Chang, L. Lee, G. Butler, M. S. Oveyrin, and T. Furin. For Kobe—Miss Mary Kragh, Messrs. W. B. Nance, and R. Marques. For Yokohama—Lieut. and Mrs. L. T. Taylor, Mrs. Prentice, Mrs. Cooper, and Mr. E. V. D. Parr.

Per str. *Hsinchi*, for Chefoo—Mrs. Perry St. Johns. For Tientsin—Messrs. Yu, Poon, and H.E. Chu.

Per str. *Chungking*, for Tientsin—Mr. and Mrs. Adler and 2 servants, and Mr. M. Woeste.

Per str. *Wuchang*, for Chefoo—Rev. H. M. Woods.

Per str. *Poyang*, for Kiukiang — Miss Lavers, and Mr. M. Hoerter.

Per str. *Chungking*, for Tientsin—Messrs W. S. Emens, and N. J. Sargent.

Per str. *Kiangkwan*, for Nanking—Dr. and Mrs. W. Grube.

Per str. *Taishun*, for Tientsin—Mr. Chen and servant.

Per str. *Wuchang*, for Chefoo—Rev. H. M. Woods, and Mr. C. Jones.

Per str. *Poyang*, for Kiukiang—Miss Campbell. For Hankow—Messrs. W. Trantman, Baillet, and Boujfard.

Per str. *Hsinfung*, for Tientsin — Misses King and Clough.

Per str. *Wuchang*, for Chefoo—Mr. and Mrs. Paterson, and Mr. C. Jones. For Tientsin—Mr. J. Fenwick.

Per str. *Pekin*, for Ningpo—Mr. and Mrs. Song.

Per str. *Kiangfoo*, for Chinkiang - Rev. and Mrs. C. A. Killie, Rev. and Mrs. J. Murray, and Miss E. E. Fleming, M.D.

Per str. *Taishun*, for Tientsin — Messrs. Medard, and Hubert.

Per str. *Pekin*, for Ningpo—Mrs. Stewart.

Arrived.

Per str. *Natal*, from Marseilles—Messrs. Montermere, Desrumeaux, Domergue, Corset, Rouguier, Leray, Lucas, Demange, Grisard, Got, Ricard, Boissicre, Chinchoie, Fageder, Ciceri, and Wolfenger. From Aden—Misses Lydie Joseph, and Clemence Zoeul, Messrs. Woett, C. Napier, Hunter Smith, Scharoff, Melginoff, and Killiam. From Hongkong—Mrs. St. John, Miss G. Smedley, Messrs. R. M. Velvan, Chong Chi-pio, Yang, Reimers, Greines, and Capt. Willmers.

Per str. *Saikio Maru*, from Japan, etc.—Mrs. Laughlin, Mr., Mrs. and Master Hayward, Mr., Mrs. and Master Hardman, Mrs. Burke and 3 children, Mrs. and Miss Adams, Mr. and Mrs Lawei, Mrs. Von Prittivitz, Mr. and Mrs. Gube, Mr. and Mrs. FitzGibbon, Mr. and Mrs. Wald, Mr. and Mrs. Y. Baba, Mrs. Fegen. Misses Cobb, Thomas, Godson, Johansen, B. A. Arnon, S. Takeno. H. Matsumoto, Shika Takeno, Rosa, and Hanberg, Revs. W. Godson, and Burke Dr. Kiok, Messrs. C. Iburg, T. Dautremer, R. Tani, Cha Pedder, J. Graham, C. E. P. Kanmerer, C. R. Bennett, Magnan, W. Middleton, J. W. Styan, T. Ycshmura, J. Doi, K. Asai, S. Iwamoto U. Komari, K. Kusunoki, C. Heryberg, Ching Tung-poo, Tsin Kun-sum, Wu Dan-yua, Wu Chin, and Wu Chai.

Per str. *Irene*, from Hongkong—Mr. and Mrs. Azevedo.

Per str. *Glenshiel*, from Hongkong — Mr. Gills.

Per str. *Wingsang*, from Hongkong—Master Piny.

Per str. *Poyang*, from Hankow — Mrs. Furlonge, 2 children and maid, Messrs. Wani, K. Otain, Wada, Furlonge, Kashimoto, and Emery.

Per str. *Kweilin*, from Chefoo—Mrs. Clark.

Per str. *Kiangteen*, from Ningpo—Misses (2) Jansen.

Per str. *Kiangkwan*, from Hankow—Mrs. Low, and Mrs. Rodger.

Per str. *Ella* from Hankow—Misses (2) Romer, and Rosenbaum.

Per str. *Chungking* from Tangku and Chefoo—Mr. Sellick.

Per str. *Taishun*, from Tientsin and Chefoo—Dr. Henderson, Messrs. Anderson, Harris, and Chang.

Per str. *Kingsing*, from Tangku—Messrs. W. Cartwright, and E. Kutschinar.

Per str. *W. Cores de Vries*, from Hankow—2 Sisters of Mercy.

Per str. *Lienshing*, from Tientsin—Mrs. Peebles. From Chefoo—Mr. and Mrs. Wakefield, and 2 children, Mrs. Wilkinson, and Mr. Cowan.

Per str. *Sendai Maru*, from Chemulpo—Mr Antonio Woo.

Per str. *Tatung*, from Hankow—Misses de Berigny, Irwine, and Lavers, Mrs. Howell, Mrs. de Marteau, Hendersen, Rev. and Mrs. Kranz.

Per str. *Shengking*, from Tangku and Chefoo—Messrs. Kingsmill, and Tabaya.

Per str. *Haean*, from Tientsin and Chefoo—Mrs. Vanderpool, Mrs. Shearer and children, Misses Isaac, Tze Lee, and Dr. Dixon.

Per str. *Fushun*, from Hongkong and Canton—Masters (2) Roza.

Per str. *Kiangteen*, from Ningpo—6 Sisters o Charity,

Per str. *Kiangyung*, from Hankow—Mrs. Mels and 2 children.

Per str. *Pekin*, from Ningpo—Mrs. Stewart.

Per str. *Haeshin*, from Foochow — Mrs. Koosnetzoff and 4 Children, Messrs. Clark, and Bryant and 2 children.

Per str. *Suiwo*, from Hankow—Mr. and Mrs. Schepens and 2 children, Messrs. Inyman, and Sokoloff.

Per str. *Paohua*, from Hankow—Miss Larson, Mrs. Reeves, and Mr. O'Keeffe.

Per str. *Tenriugawa Maru*, from Hankow—70 Chinese.

Per str. *Taksang*, from Taku and Chefoo—2 Europeans and 10 Chinese.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT.

Day of Monleht.	Barometer		Wind.		Hygrometer at 9 A.M.		Thermometer in shade		Inititials.
	9 A.M.	Attache Therm.	Direction	Force.	Dry bulb.	Wet bulb.	Max.	Min.	
Sept									
13	29.92	77.0	N.W.	3	77.0	7.35	84.0	73.0	B.C.
14	29.94	72.0	N.N.W.	2	72.0	6.85	78.0	70.0	C.
15	29.98	75.0	N.N.E.	2	75.0	71.0	76.5	71.0	C.
16	30.00	76.0	N.E.	2	76.0	70.0	80.0	70.0	B.C.
17	29.96	77.5	E.N.E.	2	77.5	74.0	79.0	73.0	C.
18	29.95	80.0	S.E.	3	80.0	74.5	80.0	72.0	B.
19	29.92	79.5	,,	2	79.5	74.0	85.0	73.0	B.

Explanation.

Initials:—b. blue sky; c. clouds; f. fog; h. hail; l. lightning; m. misty (hazy); o. overcast (dull); r. rain; s. snow; t. thunder; z. calm. Force from 1 to 12, estimated.

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30no-28 227 6th June, 1898.

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE

(From Messrs. Noël, Murray & Co. Piece Goods Trade Report of 17th September.)

PIECE GOODS.—There is more doing amongst the natives and quite a fair amount of cargo has changed hands this week, but Importers have participated to a very small extent, being altogether unwilling to countenance the low rates goods are being resold at. Of course so long as the merchants can obtain what they want on their own terms from Native sources, or the Auctions, holders must perforce abide their time, and rest satisfied for the present that, although the outside markets are not over strong, goods are being cleared and going into consumption. TIENTSIN is buying AMERICAN makes, both Drills and Sheetings, but the market for these has been more or less upset lately by some erratic sales from first hands. There are buyers, in fact, for all markets if prices are cheap, though there are still complaints of the dearness of money. Clearances continue moderately satisfactory for most quarters, COREA again distinguishing herself in that respect this week.

According to latest advices from MANCHESTER the market there is steady, though somewhat irregular, and rather more buying is going on for CHINA. It is difficult to locate the business as Importers declare, almost unanimously, that they cannot get the dealers to give them orders, or offers for anything, and the one or two small exceptions would scarcely make any impression on the home market. There is still a great deal of uncertainty with regard to the future course of that market, but the opinion is gradually gaining ground that lower prices, to any very appreciable extent, are not likely to be realised yet awhile. Cotton is slightly easier this week, to-day's quotation from LIVERPOOL being 3$\frac{7}{32}$d. It can be laid down here, according to private telegrams, at 3¼d. c. f. & i. The Export of Plain Cottons for the last two weeks was only 9,000,000 yards. We have not heard of any fresh business in NEW YORK for this market during the week under review, prices there keeping steady to firm. It is said that purchases for CHINA, for shipment in time for the new season, amount to 15,000 bales already, but we have not had this confirmed.

The Yarn market is still in a very depressed state both here and in the SOUTH, so much so that holders in HONGKONG have telegraphed to the Bombay Mill Owners Association urging them to curtail production. The reply was that the question would be considered provided the CHINA and JAPAN Mills co-operate.

Reverting to what we wrote last week with reference to the fruits of the BLACKBURN MISSION to CHINA, there is a way, by which the LANCASHIRE trade with this Country can be preserved, but it will require very powerful Syndicates to effect the necessary changes, as it will involve a reform of the MANCHESTER trade as at present carried on. The most essential point is for the Manufacturers to combine to do away with middle men, as soon as practicable, and deal direct with the representatives of the CHINA houses, doing their own making up, ticketing, packing and shipping etc., and so save the heavy expense that a bale of Shirtings has to incur now before it reaches the hands of the buyer, as is done in the UNITED STATES and CANADA. The trade will then be placed more on a parity with that of the UNITED STATES, and could successfully compete even with the heavy makes of Drills and Sheetings that are now being fast cut out. All that vast system of rebates and discounts that is despoiling the trade must be done away with, or, so surely as CHINA's former valuable Tea trade has dwindled into insignificance, from very similar causes, will the LANCASHIRE trade with this country gradually pass into other hands. This course, of necessity, will cause the MANCHESTER firms joining the Manufacturers' Syndicates or opening houses in CHINA, but what must come is a reduction of the heavy needless expenses at present incurred. Reform is wanted all along the line, not forgetting the monopoly formed by that powerful combination that controls the Steamer service to the East, composed entirely of British Companies, that carry alien cargo 25% to 30% cheaper than that of their own Country, as an actual statement of facts show, the freights paid from NEW YORK for the past 2 or 3 years having varied from 27s. 6d. to 32s. whilst MANCHESTER has been paying 35s. to 42s. 6d. Let LANCASHIRE Manufacturers bestir themselves, and if necessary form themselves into Syndicates so as to be able to put their trade on a more equable footing with that of rival and competing Countries.

Grey Shirtings.—8.4-lbs.—A very limited business is reported, sales of MANCHESTER makes amounting to not much more than 6,000 pieces, the following being the quotations given—*Man and Elephant* ₸2.10, less 1%, *Black and Gold Pahshudoo* ₸2.17½ and *Blue Joss* ₸2.25, while small sales of DUTCH are mentioned at ₸2.15 and ₸2.05. Commonest were lower at Auction, other qualities not showing much change.

Light Weights.—No private business published, 6 lbs. being lower at Auction but 7 lbs. steady.

Heavy Weights.—Not a single transaction has appeared from private hands during the week and prices at Auction went mostly lower, though somewhat irregular.

12 lbs. 36 inch.—Two small private sales have appeared, namely *Soldier PPP* ₸2.90 and *Soldier C* ₸2.97½, the Auctions showing a weaker tendency.

White Shirtings.—There is some demand for medium 64-reeds, a small business being reported as follows:—*Red 2 Stags* ₸2.25, *Blue Stag (Koongbing)* ₸2.45 less 1 per cent., *Blue Two Stag* ₸2.45 and *Tai Wo Blue Stag* ₸2.46. A few forward transactions have gone through, but Indentors have had to pay fairly full rates. Prices were weaker at Auction nearly all down the line.

T-Cloths—A few small resales are mentioned of 32 inch goods, the only transaction from first hands being a little lot of 36 inch under *Children and Fruit* chop at ₸1.90. Prices were weaker at Auction for most chops.

Jeans.—The market is dull and drooping owing to forced sales in both ENGLISH and AMERICAN makes.

Drills.—These goods are depressed, especially the ENGLISH makes, of which no sales have been found practicable. In AMERICAN it is reported that *Piedmont* were sold at ₸2.90 and *Pepperell* at ₸3.22½ and both changed hands immediately afterwards at a good profit.

Sheetings.—There is nothing reported in ENGLISH makes, but in AMERICAN some 40,000 pieces are said to have been resold by the dealers to TIENTSIN at cheap prices, of which we may mention:—*Camel's Head* ₸2.73½ *Red Joss* ₸2.81, *Bangor Ox* ₸2.95 and *New Lion* ₸3.05, while from first hands the following are announced:—*Augusta Crescent* and *Greenwood Dog* ₸2.82½, and *Piedmont* ₸2.95. These are also said to have been promptly resold at a substantial profit.

Fancy Goods.—Small orders are being booked still for miscellaneous makes, but the demand is by no means brisk. In spot cargo sales have for the most part been unimportant, the exception being 4,800 pieces medium weights of *Turkey Reds* at rather lower prices.

Woollens.—Sales have been made privately during the week of 1,500 pieces *Scarlet* LONG ELLS at ₸5.00, ₸5.25 and ₸7.20, the latter being for *UU*. A fairly large quantity of these goods was offered at Auction but prices went one to two per cent lower. CAMLETS went slightly easier, especially for the *chowchow* colours. LASTINGS also declined somewhat, and SPANISH STRIPES failed to realise quite such good prices as were paid last week.

Cotton Yarn.—*English.*—We do not hear of any movement from first hands but understand the natives are reselling at about ₸92 to ₸93 for 2 fold 32s. and ₸96/97 for 3 fold 32s. which must show a heavy loss.

Indian.—The market is again very depressed, and a further fall in prices has to be reported, No. 10s. and 16s. being one tael and No. 20s. two taels lower, there being little or no demand at the close. Sales amount to 2,241 bales, as follows:—

No. 10s., 1,092 bales—*Britannia Mule* and *Hongkong Mill* ₸51.00, *Indo-China* ₸52.75, *Pubaney Mill* ₸53.00, *Connaught* ₸54.25, *James Greaves* ₸54.50, *Tea Carrier* ₸54.75, *Framjee Petit, Fish* and *Currimbhoy Mule* ₸55.00, *Howard and Bullough* ₸55;25 and *Currimbhoy Ring* ₸55.75.

No. 12s., 10 bales—*Bombay Cotton, Mule* ₸55.75.

No. 16s., 50 bales—*Bombay Cotton Mule,* ₸63.50/63.00.

No. 20s., 1,089 bales.—*Empress Spinning* and *Anglo-Indian Mule* ₸62.50, *Imperial* ₸63.25/62.50, *Vithaldas Gopoldas Woman* ₸63.25, *Goolambaba* and *James Greaves* ₸63.50, *Jamshed Ring, Britannia, Ring* and *Connaught* ₸64.00, *Howard and Bullough* ₸64.75, *Tea Carrier* ₸65.00/64.50, *Jubilee Ring* and *Anglo-Indian Ring* ₸65.00 and *Ripon Mule* ₸66.00/65.00.

Japanese.—At slightly easier prices a good demand has continued for these Spinnings and some 1,500 bales have been disposed of during the interval, prices amongst the natives showing a decline of half-a-tael, as follows:—Nos. 16s. selling at ₸63.75 to ₸66.25 and No. 20s. at ₸66.00 to ₸68.00. The sales made by Foreign Importers amount to 300 bales as follow:—No. 16s., 200 bales *Blue Fish* and *Peacock* both ₸65.25 and No. 20s. 100 bales *Peacock* ₸66.25 and *2 Chinese Letters* ₸68.00. The market in JAPAN is up one yen, there being a good demand for home consumption.

Local Mills.—Sales continue on about the same scale, namely 1,450 bales, of which 650 bales were packed and duty paid, the following being the quotations.

No. 10s. 350 bales—*Soychee* ₸61.00, *Mow Sung* ₸59.00, *Laou Kung Mow* ₸57.00, *Yah Loong* ₸56.00 and *Wha Sheng* ₸55.00.

No. 16s., 300 bales.—*Mow Sung* and *Ewo* ₸64.50, *Ta Sheng* ₸64.00 and *Wha Sheng* ₸63.50. Some 800 bales, unpacked, have sold as follows.—No. 12s. ₸55.50 to ₸59.00, No. 14s. ₸58.00 to ₸61.75 and No. 16s. ₸60.50 to £63.50. There is rather more enquiry at the close. Cotton is slightly higher, an advance of two to three mace during the week.

Metals and Miscellaneous.—From Messrs. Alex. Bielfeld & Co.'s Report of 19th September:—There has been very little regular business done during the past week, owing undoubtedly to the near approach of one of the annual settlement periods, combined with the continued tightness of the money market. Contrary to the practice of former years, neither foreign nor Chinese banks will make advances upon merchandise in Chinese hands, even at high rates of interest. This naturally has a bad effect on the total of trade, though it may have a beneficial result in curtailing that spirit of speculation which has been manifest in the past, to the utter demoralisation of prices at time of settlement. The wharves are full of cargo which cannot be taken delivery of, and there exist no signs which lead to the hope of improvement. The most noticeable feature of the week has been the very large quantities of old metal materials rejected by Chinese buyers, on arrival here, and thus forced on the market at auction, where they have in many cases been bought up at their own prices by those ordering, these prices being far below home cost price. Although, as we have already said. home dealers aro often to blame in not sending out goods up to the specifications called for, this is by no means the sole cause of trouble. We have seen contracts so drawn up that the Chinese had a legitimate loop hole, and when they find they can probably get the goods at auction below the price called for, they naturally avail themselves of the chance. Indeed, this is becoming the rule at present. And it behoves dealers to take greater pains in framing contracts so as to prevent this action.

In METALS there have been nothing done beyond the following sales by auction of goods rejected on contract. Prices remain firm at home. Nailrods being 124s., c.i.f., while they are freely offered here at 120s., spot, without finding takers.

AUCTION.—150 piculs Old Chains at Ŧ1.72½; 1,500 piculs Horse-shoes at Ŧ1.98 to 2.00; 2,000 piculs Plate Cuttings test pieces at Ŧ2.02; 500 piculs Old Wire Rope at Ŧ0.95; 1,000 piculs do. at Ŧ0.42 to 0.76; 900 piculs Old Telegraph Wire at Ŧ1.72; 800 piculs do. at Ŧ1.64; 2,000 piculs do. at Ŧ1.43 to 1.46; 600 piculs Old Signal Wire at Ŧ1.24 to 1.47; 1,200 piculs Old Cobbles at Ŧ1.73.

Sundries have been very quiet, the following transactions showing all that have been reported:—19 cases Tin Basins at Ŧ25.50 per case; 50 cases Handkerchiefs, each 200 doz., 18/18 at Ŧ0.43½ per dozen; 40 cases Hairpins, each 10 gross at Ŧ19.00 to 20.00; 10 cases Mouson Soap, each 50 dozen at Ŧ1.67½.

Opium.—Closing quotations:—Malwa (new) Ŧ570, (old) Ŧ615/670; Patna (new) Ŧ570; Benares (new) Ŧ560.

EXPORTS.

Silk.—From Messrs. A. R. Burkill & Sons' Circular of 17th inst.:—

The latest telegrams quote Blue Elephants at 10/6 and Gold Kilings at 9/9, and the tone of the London market steady with a firm tendency. Gold Kilings are still quoted at Fcs. 27 from Lyons.

RAW SILK.—Things are still very quiet and settlements are on a small scale only. Holders of Tsatlees are still very firm, and will not make any material reduction to bring about business.

ARRIVALS, as per Customs Returns, September 10th to 16th are: 817 bales White, 152 bales Yellow, and 109 bales Wild Silks.

RE-REELS AND FILATURES.—Two or three small parcels of Market Steam Filatures have been settled. Business in Hand Filatures is on a very small scale.

The Export of Steam Filatures to date is: 889 bales to the Continent, 550 bales to America, and 41 bales to England.

WILD SILKS.—A small business is doing in Raws.

WASTE SILKS.—The following settlements are reported:—

200	piculs	Woozie pd. Cocoons, 70%	@ Tls.	63
100	,,	Curlies No. 1	,,	51½
100	,,	Szechuen Light Tussah	,,	21½
100	,,	Honan Waste No. 2	,,	24
200	,,	Tussah Waste 60% No. I, 40% No. II	,,	23½ average price.

Prices calculated by Maerten's Tables at 11 per cent. Exchange 2/8⅝ and Fcs. 3.42. Freight Tls. 7.80 per bale.

	Tls. per pcl.	Stlg. per lb.	Fcs. per kilo.
TSATLEES.—Buffalo 3	505	11/9½	32.60
HANGCHOW TSATLEES.—Lanhock	425	9/11½	27.60
,, Lanping	405	9/6	26.35
TAYSAAM.—9 × 12 Moss, Green Stork 3	393¾	9/3	25.70
SKEINS.—Blue Monster	352½	8/4	23.05

	Tls. per pcl.	Stlg. per lb.	Fcs. per kilo.
YELLOW SILK.—Mienchew	345 *a* 355	8/2 *a* 8/4½	22.60 *a* 23.20
,, Szechong	217½	7/7	14.60
STEAM FILATURE.—Market Chop No. 1	740	17/0⅓	47.35
HAND FILATURE.—			
Cat & Centipede 1 & 2	565 *a* 555	13/1½ *a* 12/11	36.40 *a* 35.80
WILD SILK.—Tussah Raw	165	4/1	11.30

		1898-99.	1897-98.	1896-97.	1895-96.	1894-95.	1893-94.
Settlements for this mail	about	350	300	2,000	2,500	700	1,500 bales.
,, ,, season including forward contracts	,,	28,750	30,500	14,500	28,500	22,500	25,000 ,,
Stock§	,,	8,000	13,500	14,000	19,000	14,500	18,000 ,,
Total Arrivals, including Steam Filatures	,,	36,000	44,000	28,500	53,000	37,000	43,000 ,,

§ Including 2,150 bales old Silk.

	* *England.*	* *France, &c.*	*Total Europe.*	*America.*	*India & Egypt.*	*Japan, Coast & Straits.*	*Grand Total.*
Export of Steam Filatures, pls.	41	889	930	550	...	...	1,480 bales.
Export White Silk in Bales of 80 catties	1,500	17,408	18,908	1,220	565	198	20,891 ,,
,, Yellow Silk in piculs...	15	455	470	...	1,281	148	1,899 ,,
,, Wild ,, ,, ...	...	2,512	2,512	95	11	51	2,669 ,,
Total	1,556	21,264	22,820	1,865	1,857	397	26,939 ,,
Against in 1897-98	960	22,894	23,854	3,275	2,378	586	30,093 ,,
,, 1896-97	1,194	9,516	10,710	360	700	735	12,505 ,,
,, 1895-96	909	25,058	25,967	3,478	2,772	893	33,110 ,,
,, 1894-95	1,307	14,887	16,194	1,901	2,600	574	21,269 ,,
,, 1893-94	2,085	16,918	19,003	524	3,571	718	23,816 ,,
,, 1892-93	1,446	28,301	29,747	1,616	1,782	803	33,948 ,,
Export Waste Silk	2,849	9,151	12,000	15	10	399	12,424 piculs
Against in 1897-98	3,283	5,041	8,324	155	...	751	9,230 ,,
,, 1896-97	1,754	3,260	5,014	594	1	29	5,638 ,,
,, 1895-96	4,557	11,140	15,697	1,353	...	430	17,480 ,,
Export Cocoons	...	1,811	1,811	7	...	406	2,224 ,,
Against in 1897-98	17	473	490	66	...	1,377	1,933 ,,
,, 1896-97	45	806	851	...	...	1,144	1,995 ,,
,, 1895-96	...	1,314	1,314	202	...	491	2,007 ,,

* Many shipments are now sent optional, Marseilles or London.

Also 19 piculs Old Silk Wadding to London.
299 ,, ,, ,, ,, Continent.
318

Freight.—From Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s Report of 19th instant:—

Since last writing nothing has occurred to alter the state of our homeward freight market with the exception of a slight drop in rates to New York, which move has not tended to bring any more cargo forward, but enabled the first steamer that reduced to book what was actually ready for shipment. The fact of the matter is the management of steamers put on the New York berth seems to us to be most erratic, and shippers can never rely upon any date of loading, surely this is not as it should be, as there is no doubt that this direction for loading must be a valuable one, or there would not be the competition that now exists. For the amount of produce that must go forward just at this time of year, why cannot tonnage be arranged in some way or another to arrive here say every ten days instead of what is being done now, "playing spy." The *Macduff* arrived here on the 14th inst. and opened at a 30/0 rate, the same day 27/6 is quoted for the *Indravelli*, what was the result? naturally the latter steamer took all that was offering, although arriving in port three days later, so the former apparently must wait.

It is an almost impossibility for owners to work their vessels from the other side of the world, and the sooner they realize the importance of placing more confidence in their local agents the better for the ship and all concerned.

For London viâ Suez.—We will have the s.s. *Manila* and s.s. *Ixion* loading for this, both being advertised to sail on the 24th inst., and as there is so little here to keep them we do not think there will be any alteration in their dates of departure.

For New York viâ Suez.—At present we have s.s. *Indravelli* and s.s. *Macduff* both trying their utmost to do the "blanketing" act, but the former has booked a fair quantity at 27/6 before the latter accepted to come down to the same rate, as the s.s. *Octavia* has been withdrawn, she should get a fair quantity of cargo if she remains say ten days longer. There will be no available tonnage then for some time.

For New York viâ Cape.—s.s. *Paul Revere* is now loading and, quite unexpectedly, is getting fair support at 19/0, she will leave for Hongkong about the 10th proximo.

DEPARTURES HOMEWARD AND WEST COAST OF AMERICA.

For London viâ Suez.—	*Dardanus* s.s., viâ Foochow,	14th inst.
For Tacoma.—	*Columbia* s.s.,	3rd ,,
	Atlanta s.v.,	3rd ,,
For Puget Sound.—	*Robert Searles* s.v.,	3rd ,,
For Portland, Or.—	*Wm. Law*, in ballast,	17th ,,
	Beeswing, ,,	17th ,,
For New York.—	*Liv* s.s., viâ Foochow & Amoy,	8th ,,
For Havre and Hamburg.—	*Suevia* s.s.	10th ,,

RATES OF FREIGHT.

LONDON	by Conference Lines, General Cargo	40/0	W. Silk	42/6	Tea	45/0
NORTHERN CONT. PORTS	,, ,, ,, ,, ,,	40/0	,,	42/6	,,	45/0
NEW YORK viâ LONDON	,, ,, ,, ,, ,,	47/6	,,	50/0	,,	52/6
BALTIMORE viâ LONDON	,, ,, ,, ,, ,,	52/6	,,	55/0	,,	57/6
KONIGSBERG viâ LONDON	,, ,, ,, ,, ,,	47/6	,,	50/0	,,	52/6
MANCHESTER	,, ,, ,, ,, ,,	52/6	,,	55/0	,,	57/6
LIVERPOOL	,, ,, ,, ,, ,,	47/6	,,	50/0	,,	52/6
HAMBURG	,, ,, ,, ,, ,,	40/0	,,	42/6	,,	45/0

Above rates are subject to a deferred rebate, as per Conference Circular.

HAVRE	by Conference Lines, Tallow	36/0 nett,	General Cargo	36/0 nett,	W. Silk	38/6 nett,	Tea	40/6 nett.
GENOA	,, ,, ,,	36/0 ,,	,, ,,	36/0 ,,	,,	38/6 ,,	,,	40/6 ,,
MARSEILLES	,, ,, ,,	36/0 ,,	,, ,,	36/0 ,,	,,	38/6 ,,	,,	40/6 ,,

35/0 per ton of 20 cwt. nett for above three ports.

NEW YORK, by Sail........................19/0 nominal.
Do. viâ Pacific ....1½ gold cts. per lb. Tea,—6 cts. per lb. Silk,—$10.00 per ton Strawbraid.
Do. viâ Suez ....27/6 General Cargo. 10/0 extra for Turmeric. 27/6 Tea.
BOSTON ....35/0 ,, ,, ,, 40/0 ,,
PHILADELPHIA ....35/0 ,, ,, ,, 40/0 ,,

COAST RATES.

MOJI	TO SHANGHAI	$1.40 per ton Coal, nominal
NAGASAKI	,, ,,	$1.40 ,, ,, ,,
NEWCHWANG	,, KOBE	Little doing.
,,	,, SWATOW	,,
,,	,, CANTON	,,
WUHU	,, CANTON	Closed.

Coals.—From Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s Report of 19th instant:—

COAL.—JAPAN.—When we last issued this report we advised a more or less dull market, but since then things have gone very much from bad to worse, stocks of all kinds are very large and seem to be rapidly increasing with few, if any, transactions. Importers hardly realize the fact that it will not be long before we see a considerable decline on prices all round. It must be taken into consideration that what natives have bought they are absolutely unable to clear or pay for owing to the very grave stringency of the money market.

CARDIFF.—Is in no demand, the present stocks are heavy, amounting to about 11,500 tons, enough to last sometime.

SYDNEY WOLLONGONG.—Is very quiet, the only business being transacted amongst the natives themselves. There still remains the unsold stock of the *Vasco de Gama*, for which Tls. 11 only can be obtained, but not entertained.

Quotations:—The undernoted figures are based on the most recent settlements for cargoes to arrive and do not represent the present market rates for coals in stock, which fluctuate with the snpply and demand:—

Cardiff, ex godown	Tls. 19.00 per ton,	no demand.
American Anthracite, ex godown	,, 15.00 ,,	nominal.
Sydney Wollongong, steamer cargo ex godown	,, 11.00 ,,	,,
Otzuji, ex godown	Tls. 7.25 @ 8.00 per ton.	
Karatz, ex godown		
Ohnoura, ex godown		
Komatzu ,,		
Hokoku ,,		
Ohnoura 3 feet		
,, 5 ,,		
Japan, Takasima Lump, ex godown	All contracted for.	
,, Small ,,		
Namazuta Lump, ,,		
,, Dust ,,		
Miiké Lump, ,,		
,, Small, ex godown		
Kaiping Coal: Linsi Lump ex godown	Tls. 7.00	Nominal.
,, Linsi Mixed ,,	,, 6.00	
,, Tongshan No. 9 Lump ,,	,, 8.00	
,, ,, No. 9 Dust ,,	,, 5.70	
,, ,, No. 9 Mixed ,,	,, 7.00	

Arrivals during the fortnight have been:—

Sept. 4,	*Kwangping*, str.	1,468 tons	Kaiping Coal, to consumers.
,, 6,	*Fujisan Maru*, str.	641 ,,	Miiké Coal, to consumers.
		1,315 ,,	Ichimura Coal, to consumers.
,, 7,	*Chingping*, str.	1,365 ,,	Kaiping Coal, to consumers.
,, 7,	*Sadokuni Maru*, str.	1,250 ,,	Miiké Coal, to consumers.
,, 11,	*Fuping*, str.	1,200 ,,	Kaiping Coal, to consumers.
,, 11,	*Kanazawa Maru*, str.	1,000 ,,	Mixed Japan Coal, to native dealers.
,, 11,	*Atagosan Maru*, str.	2,052 ,,	Miiké Coal, to consumers.
,, 14,	*Taiwan*, str.	1,978 ,,	Mixed Japan Coal, to consumers.

,,	14, *Fujisan Maru*, str.	2,000	,,	Miiké Coal, to consumerrs.
,,	14, *Yungping*, str.	900	,,	Kaiping Coal, to consumers.
,,	15, *Trym*, str.	1,450	,,	Fukasaka Lump Coal, to consumers.
,,	15, *Sadokuni Maru*, str.	300	,,	Miiké Large Coal, to consumers.
		1,000	,,	Miiké Small Coal, to consumers.
,,	15, *Hoko Maru*, str.	1,270	,,	Namazuta Coal, to consumers.
,,	15, *Paoting*, str.	2,060	,,	Mixed Japan Coal, to consumers.
,,	15, *Toonan*, str.	1,375	,,	Gotoji Lump Coal, to consumers.
,,	15, *Ariel*, str.	1,800	,,	Kaiping Coal, to consumers.

KEROSENE OIL.—AMERICAN—The only business done during the past fortnight has been amongst the natives at a price as low as Tls. 1.48½, but very few transactions took place at this figure. Importers have refused to entertain offers for cargoes to arrive until the bulk of oil already sold has been cleared, but the native is finding great difficulties in effecting clearances on account of the tightness of the money market. The sailer *W. H. Conner* arrived on the 13th instant with about 50,000 cases, and s.v. *Perseverance* with 70,000 cases on the 6th instant, including these cargoes, stocks have been increased to 934,786 cases.

BATOUM.—Has been enquired for, but the offers made do not seem to be satisfactory, therefore little business has been done. Stocks now are 662,000 cases.

LANGKAT.—As the clearances of this brand have been very good it shows that the cheaper article is favorable to the native at the very great difference in prices. Stock, 39,000 cases.

Quotations—Devoe's	Tls. 1.51	per case.		One month's delivery.
Batoum, Anchor Chop	,, 1.45	,,	no stock.	
,, Horse Chop	,, 1.40	,,		
,, Bulk Oil cased locally	,, 1.40	,,		
,, ,,	,, 1.27½	per two tins.		
Langkat	,, 1.25	,,		
,,	,, 1.39	per case.		
,, at the Tanks	,, 0.10	per gallon.		

Exchange.—(Closing Rates)—On London—Telegraphic Transfers, 2s. 8d. *a* ⅛d. Banks Bills, 2s. 8d. *a* ⅛d. Banks Bills, 4 months' sight 2s. 8⅛d. *a* ¼d. First-Class Credits to Banks, 4 months' sight, 2s. 8½d.; 6 months' sight, 2s. 8⅝d.; Private and Documentary, 4 months' sight, 2s. 8⅝d.: 6 months' sight, 2s. 8¾d. On France—Bank Bills, Transfer Fcs. 3.36½. Credits and Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight, 3.42, 6 months' sight, 3.43. On Germany—Credits and Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight, Marks, 2.77½, lowest 2.77½, highest 2.77½. On New York—Credits and Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight, per ₮100 G.$66¾, lowest 66¾, highest 66¾. On Hongkong—Telegraphic Transfers, 73⅛, lowest 73, highest 73¼ per $100. Private Bills, 3 days' sight, 72⅝, lowest 72⅝, highest 72¾. On Yokohama—Telegraphic Transfers, ₮76½, lowest 76⅜, highest 76½ per Yen 100. Private Bills. 15 days' sight, ₮75½, lowest 75⅜, highest 76. On Bombay and Calcutta—Telegraphic Transfers, Rs. 199½, lowest 199½, highest 200 per ₮100. Bank Bills, demand, Rs. 200. lowest 200, highest 200½. Bullion—Gold Bars, Shanghai, 98 touch, ₮363.00, lowest 362 50, highest 365.00. Silver Bars, ₮111.10, lowest 111.10, highest 111.20. Mexican dollars, ₮74.3, lowest 73.7, highest 74.3. Carolus dollars, ₮92.00, lowest 92.00, highest 93.00. Copper Cash 1,180, lowest 1,180, highest 1,190. Chinese Interest, mace 2.4, lowest 2.4, highest 3 0. Bar Silver in London, per oz. $28\frac{1}{16}$ *a* ⅛, lowest $27\frac{15}{16}$, highest 28⅛.

DAILY QUOTATIONS.

(From Messrs. Morriss, Fergusson & Robertson's Circular.)

Sept.	Bar Silver ℔ oz in L'don.	On London.								France.		Germany.	New York.	Hongkong.	Yokohama.	India.
		T/Transfers.		Bank 4 m/s.		Credits 4 m/s.		Docty. 4 m/s.		Francs 4 m/s. and 6 do.		4 m/s. Priv.	Docty. 4 m/s.		T/T	T/T Rup.
		Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.					
13th...	$27\frac{15}{16}$	2.8	$2.8\frac{1}{16}$	2.8⅛	2.8¼	2.8⅜	2.8½	2.8½	2.8⅝	3.40½/41½	3.42/3.43	2.77½	66¾	73	76½	199½
14th......	28	2.8	2.8⅛	2.8⅛	2.8¼	2.8⅜	2.8½	2.8½	2.8⅝	3.40½/41½	3.42/3.43	2.77½	66¾	73	76½	199½
15th	28	2.8	$2.8\frac{1}{16}$	2.8⅛	2.8¼	$2.8\frac{7}{16}$	2.8½	$2.8\frac{9}{16}$	2.8⅝	3.41/3.42	3.42/3.43	2.77½	66¾	73	76½	199½
16th...	28	2.8	$2.8\frac{1}{16}$	2.8⅛	2.8¼	$2.8\frac{7}{16}$	2.8½	$2.8\frac{9}{16}$	2.8⅝	3.41/3.42	3.42/3.43	2.77½	66¾	73	76½	199½
17th......	$28\frac{1}{16}$	2.8	2.8⅛	2.8⅛	2.8¼	$2.8\frac{7}{16}$	2.8½	$2.8\frac{9}{16}$	2.8⅝	3.41/3.42	3.42/3.43	2.77½	66¾	73	76½	199½
19th.....	28⅛	2.8	2.8⅛	2.8⅛	2.8¼	2.8½	2.8½	2.8⅝	2.8⅝	3.42/3.43	3.42/3.43	2.77½	66¾	73⅛	76½	199½

Shares.—From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report of 19th September:—

A moderate business has been done this week, with but little change in prices.

BANKS.—*Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation.*—Business has been confined to a sale at 207% premium, for cash. Hongkong quotes sellers at 205%. The London rate is £47.5.0. *National Bank of China*—Founders' shares were placed at $10, and Ordinary shares at $17.

INSURANCE.—*Marine* and *Fire*, no business reported.

SHIPPING.—*Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat* shares are wanted. *Indo-China S.N.* shares changed hands at ₮40 cash and ₮42.50 for the 28th February. *China Mutual S.N.* Ordinary shares were sold at ₮23.

SUGAR COMPANIES.—*Perak Sugar Cultivation* shares are wanted at ₮39.50 for the 30th current. *China Sugar Refining* shares were placed for the 30th current at $157. *Luzon Sugar* shares are wanted at $41.

MINING.—*Raub Australian Gold Mining* shares were sold at $35, and are wanted.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Shares in *S. C. Farnham & Co.*, after sales at ₮170 cum, and 158 ex div., were forced off at ₮153, and have since recovered to ₮155. *Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf* shares changed hands at ₮115. *Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf & Godown* shares are wanted in Hongkong at $62.

LANDS.—*Shanghai Land Investment* shares were sold at ₮82 and ₮80. There are buyers at the latter rate.

INDUSTRIAL.—*Shanghai Gas* shares were placed at ₮210. *International Cotton Mill* shares were placed at ₮90 for cash and for delivery on the 30th September, and there are sellers at the same price. *Shanghai Ice* shares were sold at ₮90, *Shanghai Rice Mill* shares at ₮25, *China Flour Mill* shares at ₮51, and *American Cigarette* shares at ₮75 for delivery on the 31st December.

TUGS AND CARGO BOATS.—Business was done in *Taku Tug and Lighter* shares at T. ₮75, and in *Shanghai Cargo Boat* shares at ₮160.

MISCELLANEOUS.—*Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco* shares have been changing hands at declining rates, ₮70 to ₮68 for the 30th September, cum dividend, recovering to ₮69 cash, ₮71 for December, ₮72 for February and ₮74 for March, all ex dividend. *Shanghai-Langkat Tobacco* shares have been rather quiet, business being confined to cash sales at ₮13 and ₮130 cash and ₮160 for the 31st December. *Central Stores* shares were placed at $10.25, and are wanted.

LOANS.—*Chinese Imperial Government* E Loan Bonds were placed at ₮250, and *Shanghai-Sumatra* 8% Debentures at ₮100.

LOANS.		Amount of Loan.	Outstanding.	Nominal Value.	Rate of Interest	When Payable	Return on Inv. allowing for Amortization.	Closing.		
Shanghai Mun. Debentures—Issue	1890	₮20,000.00	₮8,000.00	₮100	6 %	June & Dec.	(g) 5.87%	...	(a)	nom.
Do.	1891	₮20,000.00	₮20,000.00	₮100	5½ %	Do.	(g) 5.50%	...	(a)	₮100.00
Do.	1892	₮50,000.00	₮50,000.00	₮100	5 %	Do.	(a) 6.31%	...	(a)	₮90.00
Do.	1893	₮125,000.00	₮125,000.00	₮100	5½ %	Do.	(g) 5.50%	...	(a)	₮100.00
Do.	1894	₮105,000.00	₮105,000.00	₮100	6 %	Do.	(g) 5.90%	...	(a)	₮101.00
Do.	1895	₮115,000.00	₮115,000.00	₮100	5 %	Do.	(g) 5.98%	...	(a)	₮90.00
Do.	1896	₮140,000.00	₮140,000.00	₮100	5 %	Do.	(g) 5.93%	...	(a)	₮90.00
Do.	1897	₮268,000.00	₮268,000.00	₮100	5 %	Do.	(g) 5.90%	...	(a)	₮90.00
Do.	1898	₮300,000.00	₮300,000.00	₮100	6 %	Do.	(g) 5.83%	...	(a)	₮102.00
Lyceum Theatre Debentures.............		₮17,000.00	₮17,000.00	₮25	*4 %	(l) 31 Dec. 1889	...	...		₮16.00
Chinese Imp. Government Loan 1886 E		S.₮635,700.00	₮680,104.00	₮250	7 %	Mar. & Sept.	(g) 7.00%	...	(a)	₮250.00
Shanghai Land Inv. Co. Debentures.	1890	₮250,000.00	₮250,000.00	₮100	6 %	May & Nov.	(g) 5.76%	...	(a)	₮102.00
Do. Do.	1892	₮250,000.00	₮250,000.00	₮100	5½ %	June & Dec.	(g) 6.04%	...	(a)	₮95.00
Do. Do.	1894	₮250,000.00	₮250,000.00	₮100	6 %	Mar. & Sept.	(g) 5.80%	...	(a)	₮102.00
Do. Do.	1896	₮250,000.00	₮250,000.00	₮100	5 %	June & Dec.	(g) 5.90%	...	(a)	₮90.00
Shanghai Waterworks Co. Debentures	'94]	₮100.000.00	₮100,000.00	₮100	6 %	Mar. & Sept.	(g) 5.90%	...	(a)	₮101.00
Do. ,,	'96]	₮100,000.00	₮400,000.00	₮100	5 %	June & Dec.	(g) 5.44%	...	(a)	₮95.00
Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf Co. ,,		₮400,000.00	₮100,000.00	₮100	6 %	June & Dec.	(g) 5.91%	...	(a)	₮101.00
Perak Sugar C. Co. Debentures 1896 ..		₮100.000.00	₮100,000.00	₮100	7 %	June & Dec.	(g) 7.86%	...	(a)	₮95.00
Shanghai Gas Co. ,,	1897	₮100,000.00	₮100,000.00	₮100	5 %	April & Oct.	(g) 5.89%	...	(a)	₮90.00

AUCTION SALES.

Auctions for the week ending 17th September, 1898, comprised the following Goods :—

	For the week			Previous week.			Corresponding week last year.	
Grey Shirtings...........	23,415	pcs.	against	21,730	pcs.	and	7,780	pcs.
White Shirtings	6,320	,,	,,	6 530	,,	,,	4,190	,,
T-Cloths..	1,316	,,	,,	1,606	,,	,,	320	,,
Drills, English	210	,,	,,	540	,,	,,	......	,,
Jeans	220	,,	,,	220	,,	,,	60	,,
Sheetings	120	,,	,,	120	,,	,,	300	,,
Turkey Red	100	,,	,,	100	,,	,,	......	,,

	For the week.			Previous week.			Corresponding week last year.	
Velvets	......	pcs.	against	......	pcs.	and	90	pcs.
Velveteens	......	,,	,,	......	,,	,,	......	,,
Cotton Italians	1,320	,,	,,	1,590	,,	,,	......	,,
Camlets.....................	450	,,	,,	470	,,	,,	500	,,
Long Ells	690	,,	,,	400	,,	,,	......	,,
Lastings	340	,,	,,	340	,,	,,	430	,,
Spanish Stripes	510	,,	,,	444	,,	,,	192	,,

At *E-Wo*, 14th inst.

Grey Shirtings.—7-lbs.—210 pieces; *Eagle & Snake*, ₮1.51, *Red Lotus* ₮1.49¾.

8.4-lbs.—2,460 pieces; *Black Lotus* ₮1.61, *Man and Gong* ₮1.64, *Black Tea Caddy XX* ₮1.66¼, *Boy and Melon* ₮1.76, *Red Crab* ₮1.76¼, *Red Lion* ₮1.79½, *Blue Dragon and Crown* ₮1.99¼, *Red Dragon and 6 Women* ₮2.01¼, *Red Bell* ₮2.03¾/04, *Blue Tea Caddy DDD* ₮2.33½, *Blue 2 Tea Caddy CCC* ₮2.39½, and *Blu 2 Tea Caddy* ₮2.48/48½.

10-lbs.—1,950 pieces; *Black Tea Caddy* ₮2.20, *Blue 2 Ducks* ₮2.20¾/21, *Blue Dragon and Shield* ₮2.39, *Blue Goat* ₮2.40, *Man and Unicorn* ₮2.40½, *Blub Crab* ₮2.41¼, *Green Dragon and 5 Men* ₮2.45¼, *Blue Flower* ₮2.66, *Blue Tea Caddy DDD* ₮2.69½/71¼, and *Blue 2 Tea Caddy* ₮2.73¾.

12-lbs.—2,100 pieces; *Man's Face and Bird* ₮2.68, *Double Ladder and Gun* ₮2.71½, *Man and Unicorn* ₮2.73, *Blue Lotus* ₮2.89½, *China Man* ₮2.92, *Blue Flower* ₮2.99¾, *Man* and *Stork GG* ₮3.08, and *Fisher Boat* ₮3.21.

White Shirtings.—200 pieces; *House No. 3* ₮3.01, *Painted Phœnix BL* ₮3.07, and do. *DN* ₮3.28.

T-Cloths.—7-lbs.—660 pieces; *Man and Gong* ₮1.37½, *Feathers* ₮1.42½.

8-lbs.—66 pieces; *Blue Dragon* and *Crown* ₮1.94.

Jeans.—8-lbs.—100 pieces; *Tiger and Tree* ₮2.38¼.

Drills.—14-lbs.—210 pieces; *Bat and Stag* ₮2 72, *Blue Lion* ₮2.67½.

At *Yuen-foong*, 15th inst.—

Grey Shirtings.—6-lbs.—500 pieces; *Lotus* ₮0.77¼.

7-lbs.—2,200 pieces; *Blue Britannia* ₮1.51/51½, *Blue 4 Sisters* ₮1.51¼/52, and *Blue 3 Students* ₮1.64¼.

8.4-lbs.—6,575 pieces; *Blue Junk* ₮1.49/49¼, *Green 9 Lions* ₮1.51¾/53½, *House* ₮1.50½/52, *Double Men* ₮1.50¾/51, *Blue Britannia* ₮1.63¼, *Blue 3 Students* ₮1.90¼, *Blue 4 Sisters* ₮1.89/89¼, *Blue Double Shield* ₮1.90¾, *Black Gold 3 Students* ₮2.10/10¼, *Red 3 Students* ₮2.01¼/02¼, *Red Emperor's Birthday* ₮2.08, *7 Sisters* ₮2.22, *5 Brothers* ₮2.25½/25¾, and 8½-lbs.—300 pieces; *18 Brothers* ₮2.39¼/40¼.

10-lbs.—3,050 pieces: *Blue Buffalo* ₮2.40, *Red Britannia* ₮2.39½/40¾, *Red 3 Students* ₮2.42/42¾, *Red Emperor's Birthday* ₮2.52/52¾, *Red 4 Sisters* ₮2.51¼, and *Painted 8 Literati* ₮2.92½/93¼.

10.12-lbs.—1,750 pieces; *Gold Britannia* ₮2.72¼, *18 Brothers* ₮3.05¾/07½, and *Lily* ₮3.10½/13.

11-lbs.—750 pieces; *Painted 3 Students* ₮2.77/78.

12-lbs.—1,320 pieces; *China Square* ₮2.69¾/70, *Nine Lions* ₮2.73/74, *Soldier* ₮2.77¼/78¾, and *Lily* ₮3.23¼/24¼.

12.12-lbs.—250 pieces; *9 Old Men* ₮3.45¾/46.

White Shirtings.—64-reed.—1,850 pieces; *House Bright* ₮1.94¼/94½, do. *Dull* ₮1.92¾/93, *Blue 2 Lighthouse Bright* ₮1.95¾, do *Dull* ₮1.93, and *Black Gold 3 Students* ₮2.31½.

72-reed.—4,270 pieces: *White Gold 3 Students* ₮2.45¼/45½, *Red 2 Sisters, Bright* ₮2.46½/47, *Red 2 Light House Bright* ₮2.47¾, do. *Dull* ₮2.46, *Red Gold Star, Bright* ₮2.88¼/88½, do. *Dull* ₮2.89½/90½, *Red 5 Star, Bright* ₮3.14, *Painted 4 Sisters Bright* ₮3.00/01, do. *Dull* ₮3.05¼07¼, *Black Flag Chief* ₮3.20, *Painted Grand Fathers* ₮3.70½/71, *Lily* ₮3.57¼/58 and *Student* ₮3.84½.

T-Cloths.—7-lbs.—390 pieces; *Blue 3 Students* ₮1.35¼, *Red Double Shield* ₮1.60, and *Red 3 Students* ₮1.65.

8-lbs.—200 pieces; *Painted 3 Students* ₮2 08¼.

Jeans.—8-lbs.—120 pieces; *Double Squirrel* ₮2 35¼.

Sheetings.—14-lbs.—120 pieces; *Old Man Head A.* ₮2.88½/88¾.

Black Cotton Italians.—1,320 pieces; *Loo Loo Tong* ₮4.07½, *Painted 9 Lions* ₮4.42½, *Painted 2 Sisters* ₮4.37½/40, *Black Flag Chief* ₮4.30, *Students* ₮4.20, *18 Literati* ₮4.12½/15, *Gold 2 Light House* ₮4.17½/20, *5 Brothers* ₮5.75, and *Lily* ₮6.12½.

At *Nie Kee*, 17th inst.

Turkey Red.—100 pieces; *8 Joss* 4½-lbs., ₮2.35.

Statement of Imports and Deliveries of Cotton and Woollen Piece Goods for the week ending 16th September, 1898, compiled from the "Customs Daily Returns," Nos. 210 to 215 both numbers inclusive.

Goods.	Re-Exports and their Destinations.																	
	Ningpo.	Wenchow.	Chinkiang.	Wuhu.	Kiukiang.	Hankow.	Ichang & Chunking.	Chefoo.	Tientsin.	Newchwang	Foochow.	Hongkong.	Japan.	Soochow & Hangchow.	Corea.	Vladivostock.	Local.	Sundries.
Grey Shirtings † Pcs.	5,250	210	5,660	260	520	15,685	2150	475	27,317	1,365	...	...	400	...	...	...	11,000	335
T-Cloths, 32-in. ,,	435	120	1,070	...	...	1.430	...	1,170	4,065	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,500	...
,, 36-in. ,,	758	...	...	...	...	210		...	200	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,100	...
,, Indian, 32 & 36-in... ,,	...	...		...	...	...		...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	400	..
White Shirtings ,,	2,170	150	1,110	560	330	8,449	350	580	8,110	299	...	350	250	...	...	...	3,500	2050
Drills, English & Indian. ,,	30	15	255	135	75	345	150	...	420	225	...	...	450	...	...	...	650	...
,, Dutch ,,	...	...	45	45	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	200	...
,, American ,,	510	120	1,680	675	285	795	450	2,130	9,675	6,990	...	...	...	...	...	...	900	120
Jeans, English & Indian. ,,	570	...	220	...	50	150	...	70	800	720	..	...	...	...	...	...	400	...
,, Dutch ,,	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	100	
,, American ,,	200	...	40	60	...	100	...	...	2,220	400	...	...	...	...	...	...	200	400
Sheetings, English ,,	...	...	1,140	210	...	1,630	480	...	300	480	...	...	1200	...	...	...	800	20
,, Indian ,,	...	...	...		...	...	...	...	...	1,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	200	...
,, American ,,	1,480	...	..	...	...	40	...	3,900	17 000	11,300	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,200	280
Dyed Shirtings ,,	...	...	1,118	379	...	...	...	50	1,021	50	...	40	...	...	...	...	200	...
Bro. & Sp. S'tings, D. & W. ,,	50	50	...	...	...	490	...	...	..	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	200	...
Chintzes ,,	360	...	120	...	...	370	...	173	1,659	44	...	...	...	...	...	...	300	...
Printed T-Cloths ,,	180	60	820	...	60	1,107	...	160	956	180	...	...	...	...	...	...	600	60
Printed Twills ,,	110	...	140	149	350	180	...	180	...	60	...	..	...	...	...	...	400	...
Turkey Red Shirtings... ,,	285	25	595	55	280	1,195	200	100	940	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	350	30
Velvets ,,	384	30	30	...	30	180	...		...	42	...	...	...	...	...	...	120	...
Velveteens ,,	...	...	...	...	...	24	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	90	...
Handkerchiefs Doz.	200	...	1,300	900	360	600	...	200	700	400	200	...	...	...	...	.	3,200	...
Muslins Pcs.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	1,600	...	...	600	...	...	...	...	200	...
Lenos & Balzarines ,,	...	...	..	...	...		...		...		...	...	...	...	...	...	200	...
Cotton Yarn, Indian ...Pcls.	...	18	1,161	90	696	4,251	150	111	2,037	1,410	...	222	..	...		...	450	...
,, English ... ,,	...	...	...	6	15	159	...	3	273	24	...	...	...	...	...	...	30	3
,, Japan ... ,,	18	21	252	123	429	1,768	...	780	405	160	30	.	..	–	...	...	120	552
,, Shanghai.. ,,	24	...	60	27	15	660	...	186	210	426	...	...	...	...	...	...		15
Spanish Stripes, Woollen Pcs.	36	..	168	84	48	270	...	6	18	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	120	...
,, Cotton. ,,	24	...	72	...	...	48	...	48	480	...	..		...	...	...	...	144	...
Medium & Broad Cloths. ,,	36	...	30	24	58	158	100	10	34	6	...	...	..	...	...	...	100	...
Camlets ,,	30	40	10	10	40	260	60	...	10	...	20	50	...	..	...	..	140	...
Long Ells ,,	...	...	160	420	140	610	...	20	20	40	...	...	240	...	...	...	120	..
Lastings ,,	80	...	20	...	40	350	80	30	280	20	...	...	40	...	...	...	120	...
Italian Cloth ,,	90	...	330	120	60	960	180	...	90	180	...	...	...	...	...	...	160	...
Cotton Lastings & Italians ,,	1,789	80	2,352	663	307	5,727	320	1,144	7,559	780	...	40	...	...	...	...	700	110
Plain & Figured Orleans. ,,	50	...	...	...	...	...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Cotton Flannels ,,	790	...	100	220	430	1,820	...	60	980	560	...	...	...	...	...	...	400	100
do. Japan ,,	60	...	...	120	27	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lead—in Pigs Pcls.	...	...			...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Iron, Nail Rod ,,	265	...	777	250	189	672	...	...	..	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Kerosine Oil, American. Case	500	...	4,000	100	1,780	800	...	6,000	46,400	2,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
,, Russian ... ,,	500	...	1 100	100	500	6,600	...	...	7,000	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	..

Goods.	Total Deliveries.			Total Imports.			Stocks at date are based on the Chamber of Commerce Returns on 30th June, 1898.	
	As above.	For the year from 1st Jan. 1898.	Against last year to same term.	For the week.	For the year from 1st Jan. 1898.	Against last year to same term.	* At date Estimated.	Against 16th Sept. 1897.
Grey Shirtings Pcs.	70,627	3,905,301	4,652,101	127,861	3,667,130	3,778,655	2,122,176	1,316,244
T-Cloths, 32-in. ,,	10,790	652,114	772,016	34,000	579,459	564,641	244,968	252,133
,, 36-in ,,	2,268	53,329	76,912	990	75,310	88,351	56,805	54,472
,, Indian, 32 & 36-in... ,,	400	33,100	204,200	20,200	53,449	282,520	31,608	115,850
White Shirtings ,,	28,258	1,347,619	1,388,343	20,629	120,164	1,304,182	383,170	567,398
Drills, Eng. & Indian ,,	2,750	146,613	220,894	6,885	131,604	132,799	58,983	85,951
,, Dutch ,,	290	18,310	......	... ...	3,300	......	3,750	......
,, American ,,	24,330	928,867	963,508	35,002	845,266	969,036	323,070	349,607
Jeans, Eng. & Indian ,,	2,980	77,365	147,031	3,620	112,182	155,460	56,680	80,349
,, Dutch ,,	100	24,710	......	2,300	30,270	......	17,550	......
,, American ,,	3,620	65,250	46,125	8,000	70,201	43,000	23,131	8,091
Sheetings, English ,,	6,260	487,065	597,727	7,707	433,052	90,026	41,023	89,624
,, Indian ,,	1,200	14,480	91,550	3,340	5,640	24,280	860	5,422
,, American ,,	35,200	1,996,847	1,756,372	92,763	1,467,770	2,000,973	333,715	1,128,015
Dyed Shirtings ,,	2,858	107,219	148,266	1,777	46,867	129,883	14,683	61,190
Bro. & Spot. Shts., D. & W. ,,	790	18,092	38,590	250	5,419	32,662	22.038	20,632
Chintzes ,,	3,026	126,487	157,341	...	6,503	205,698	15,279	24,138
Printed T-Cloths ,,	4,183	352,170	461,050	1,439	136,059	436,803	236,976	412,590
Printed Twills ,,	1,569	72,572	91,527	......	20,788	104,045	63,154	135,187
Turkey Red Shirtings ,,	3,955	151,644	182,992	5 600	121,094	102,107	35,990	96,517
Velvets ,,	816	13,844	23,412	844	6,757	24,423	14,204	11,693
Velveteens ,,	114	6,950	8,194	133	1,596	9,239	11,382	11,639
Handkerchiefs Doz.	8,060	256 011	354,417	430	140,239	244,019	117,812	346,631
Muslins Pcs.	2,400	179,458	160,203	.. ...	131,315	144,374	24,405	96,235
Lenos & Balzarines ,,	200	74,437	51,757	1,372	71,452	39,844	14,447	11,994
Cotton Yarn, Indian Pcls.	10,596	436,329	431,925	10,758	412,806	431,627	106.131	138,367
,, English ,,	513	19 887	21,226	......	26,417	16,006	8,835	1,407
,, Japan ,,	4,667	155,367	91,706	3,560	185,436	123,783	27,723	23,262
,, Shanghai ,,	1,623	19,769	...	...	...	......	?	......
Spanish Stripes, Woollen Pcs.	750	20,027	26,450	1,024	20,798	27,013	6,156	12,292
,, Cotton ,,	816	20,775	32,008	......	10,178	27,189	9,994	14,819
Med. & Broad Cloths ,,	556	13,757	17,043	1.034	9,266	19,731	14,353	13,312
Camlets ,,	670	25,079	35,417	1,023	17,517	31,585	10,660	13,769
Long Ells ,,	1,770	36,690	49,479	2,660	26,280	34,146	39,205	55,455
Lastings ,,	1,060	34.547	54,051	2,510	24,941	61,624	21.155	42,003
Italian Cloth ,,	2,170	50,440	70,498	883	45,917	79,975	55,676	65,163
Cotton Lastings & Italians ,,	21,571	632,681	751,973	19,360	516,438	985,845	370,500	535,071
Plain & Figured Orleans ,,	50	360	840	.. ...	......	1,563	1,140	5,075
Cotton Flannels ,,	5,460	40,581	39,080	11,768	59,215	20,272	64,229	53,776
,, ,, Japan ,,	207	1,753	4,851	200	2,500	14,037	?	......
Lead in Pigs Pcls.	.. ...	24,527	50,246	......	28,476	59,209	7,718	2,563
Iron—Nail Rod ,,	2,159	104,491	105,923	4,200	163,168	67,119	74,054	51,621
Kerosine Oil, American ..Cases	61,580	1,416,585	1,976,631	129,946	2,481,427	2,422,821	934,786	914,000
,, Russian ... ,,	15,800	230,438	1,080,045	......	603,428	603,428	?	525,000

SHARES.

SHANGHAI, 19th September, 1898.

SHARES.	No.	Value.	Paid up.	POSITION PER LAST REPORT.			LAST DIVD. &C.		Average dividends for 3 years.	Return on investment on average of 3 years' divids.	CASH QUOTATION	
				Reserve.	At Working Account.	Date.	To Share-holders	When paid or due.			Closing.	
										per cent.		Tls.
Banks.												
Hongkong & Shanghai Bank. Co.	80,000	$125	$125	$9,000,000	$376,916 76	30- 6-98	*£1¼	15- 8-98	$24.41	6.36	$383.75	280.14
Bank of China & Japan Ld. ordinary shares	106,701	£8	£4	......	£149,481.16.3	31-12-97	None.	......	...	......	£5.5.0	nom.
Do. deferred do.	1,105	£1	£1	.. ...	...	......		... ...	...	......		......
National Bank of China, Ld. ..	40,453	£10	£8	$109,496.04	$4,523.23	31-12-97	†$1.18	1- 3-97	$1.20	7.06	17.00	12.41
Do.	3,818	£10	...							...	nominal	nom.
Do. Founders'	750	£1	£1							...	$10.00	7.30
Insurance (Marine.)												
Union In. Society of Canton, Ld.	10,000	$250	$50	$1,266,000.00 (e) $78,649.54	$674,784.53	30- 6-97	†$16	15-10-97	$14.33	6.51	$220.00	160.60
China Traders' Ins. Co., Ld. ...	24,000	$83.33	$25	$1,000,000.00 e 158,393.77	$351,807.25	30- 4-97	†$5	4- 10-97	$5.00	7.93	$63.00	45.99
North-China Ins. Co., Ld.......	5,000	£100	£25	₮250,000.00	₮266,252.64	31-12-97	‖₮20	29- 4-98	₮18.22	10.12	......	180.00
Yangtze Insurance Ass'tion, Ld	6,948	$100	$60	$516,000.00 e$85,561.27	$365,858.07	31-12-97	‖$6	23- 4-98	$12.00	9.24	$130.00	94.90
Canton Insurance Office	10,000	$250	$50	$1,300,000	$4,276.22	31-12-96	‡$5	13- 1-98	$11.00	8.46	$130.00	94.90
Straits Insurance Co., Ld.	30,000	$100	$20	$3,220.00	$249,521.11	31-12-97	†$2	27- 3-96	$0.67	7.44	$9.00	6.57
Insurance (Fire.)												
Hongkong Fire Ins. Co., Ld....	8,000	$250	$50	$1,046,763.76	$288,875.16	31-12-97	†$26½	28- 2-98	$19.75	5.98	$330.00	240.90
China Fire Insurance Co., Ld..	20,000	$100	$20	$1,000,000	$237,802.90	31-12-97	†$6.65	28- 2-98	$6.85	7.13	$96.00	70.08
Shipping.												
H'kong, C'ton & M'cao S.B.Co..	80,000	$15	$15	d $609,000	$35,165.16	30- 6-98	*$1.00	2- 8-98	$2.26	9.22	$24.50	17.88
Indo-China Steam Nav. Co.	49,589	£10	£10	(c) £109,283.4.4	£1,370.7.0	31-12-97	†₮3.73	12- 7-98	₮2.93	7.32	......	40.00
Douglas Steamship Co. Ld. ...	20,000	$50	$50	$115,698 14 c 50,684.50	.. ...	30- 6-97	†$4.00	27- 9-97	$6.00	10.17	$59.00	43.07
Ch. Mutual S.N.Co. pref. shares.	16,736	£10	£10	c£17,386.1.0 d£123,769.17.0	£1,305.16.11	31-12-97	*3%	31- 3-98	₮4.30	5.93	... ..	72.50
Do. ord. do.	1,231	£10	£10				†6%	31- 3-98	₮4.33	......	......	nom.
Do. do. do.	15,505	£10	£5				†6%	31- 3-98	₮2.17	9.43	... ..	23.00
Sugar Companies.												
Perak Sugar Cultivation Co. Ld.	5,000	₮50	₮50	.. ...	§₮7,156.07	31- 8-97	†₮2	23- 1-96	₮0.67	1.69	...	39.50
China Sugar Refining Co. Ld...	20,000	$100	₮100	$140,000	$13,753.31	31-12-97	‡$5	26- 8-98	$8.50	5.44	$156.00	113.88
Luzon Sugar Refining Co. Ld..	7,000	$100	₮100	none	$5,900.31	31-12-97	†$3	23- 3-98	$2.67	6.41	$41.00	29.93
Mining.												
Sheridan Con. M. & M. Co., Ld.	20,000	₮100	₮100	......	§₮154,503.62	31-12-97	None.	......	none	... ..	......	2.25
Punjom Mining Co. Ld.	60,000	$8	$5	......	......	......	First	year	...	......	$5.50	4.02
Do. pref. shares.	30,000	$1	$1	......							$1.60	1.17
Jelebu Mining & Trading Co. Ld	45,000	$5	$5	... ..	§$38,563.71	21- 1-98	*5%	15-10-94	$0.48	10.66	$4.50	3.28
Raub A'lian Gold Min. Co. Ld.	200,000	£1	14/10	none	£2,361.17.11	31- 3-97	‖$0.52	8- 8-98	$0.51	1.45	$35.00	25.55
Docks, Wharves and Godowns.												
Boyd & Co., Ld., Founders' ...	200	₮100	₮100	₮220,000.00	₮8,585.40	30- 4-98	†₮117	29- 6-98	₮78.00	......	......	nom.
Boyd & Co., Ld., Ordinary.....	7,800	₮100	₮100				†₮15	29- 6-98	₮13.67	7.39	...	185.00
S. C. Farnham & Co., Ld.	7,500	₮100	₮100	₮350,000	₮19,464.50	30- 6-98	†₮12	16- 9-98	₮12.67	8.18	......	155.00
S'hai E. S. & Dock Co., Ld. ord.	6,000	₮100	₮100	......	₮14,916.64	30- 4-97	None.	......	...	.. ...	......	77.00
Do. Founders'	200	₮100	₮100	.. ...				......	...	...	......	200.00
H'kong & W'poa Dock Co., Ld.	12,500	$125	$125	$800,000	$98,004.50	30- 6-98	*16%	23- 8-98	$31.67	7.34	$431.25	314.81
Shanghai & H'kew Wharf Co ...	15,100	₮100	₮100	......	₮16,137.20	31-12-97	‡₮3	16- 8-98	₮7.75	6.74	.....	115.00
H'kong & K'loon Wh. & G. Co., Ld	20,000	$50	$50	......	$9,808.81	31-12-97	‡$1.50	1- 8-98	$2.67	4.30	$62.00	45.26
Lands.												
Sh. Land Investment Co., Ld.	26,000	₮50	₮50	₮200,000.00	₮4,614.61	31-12-97	‡₮2.25	18- 7-98	₮4.83	6.04	......	80.00
H'kong Land Invest. & A. Co. Ld.	50,000	$100	$50	$1,250,000	$57,856.26	31-12-97	‡$2	25- 7-98	...	... ..	$67.50	49.27
Kowloon Land & Building Co. Ld	5,960	$50	$30	none	$164.60	31-12-97	†$1.00	27- 1-98	$0.87	4.97	$17.50	12.77
Humphreys Estate & F. Co. Ld.	30,000	$10	$10	$25,000.00	$934.68	31-12-97	†6%	5- 3-98	$0.59	6.94	8.50	6.20
Industrial.												
Shanghai Gas Co....................	3,000	₮100	₮100	₮100,000	₮37,574.22	31-12-97	‡₮6.00	16- 7-98	₮14.41	6.86	......	210.00
Major Brothers, Ld................	5,500	₮50	₮50	......	......	31-12-97	...	......	...	......	......	30.00
Ewo Cotton Sp. & W. Co., Ld.	10,000	₮100	₮100	......	₮2,303.86	31-10-97	†₮3.50	24-11-97	...	......	......	87.50
International Cotton Man. Co. Ld	7,620	₮100	₮100	......	₮2,678.69	30- 9-97	†₮3.50	8-11-97	...	......	.. ..	90.00
Laou-kung-mow Cotton Spinning and Weaving Co., Ld....	6,000	₮100	₮100	.. ...	₮21,108.37	31-12-97	None.	......	...	......	......	87.50
Soy Chee Cotton Spin. Co. Ld.	2,000	₮500	₮500	₮2,366.61	₮469.00	1- 2-98	†₮20	......	...	......	......	450.00
Yah Loong Cotton Spin. Co., Ld	7,500	₮100	₮100	......	......	......	First	year	...	...	......	60.00
Shanghai Ice Co.	540	₮100	₮100	₮6,800.00	......	31-10-97	†₮6	20- 1-97	₮9.00	10.00	... ..	90.00
Shanghai Ice, Cold Storage & Refrigeration Co., Ltd. ..	3,000	₮25	₮25	.. ...	......	......	First	year	...	......	... ..	25.00
Shanghai Rice Mill Co. Ld.	2,000	₮25	₮25	.. ...	₮649.65	31-12-97.	₮1.75	7- 2-98	...	......	......	25.00
China Flour Mill Co., Ld	4,000	₮50	₮50	1,206.24	......	31-12-97	None.	......	...	......	......	51.00
American Cigarette Co., Ld. ...	1,500	₮50	₮50	. ...	...... (k)	......	...	.. ...	...	.. ...	......	70.00
H'kong Cotton S. W. & D. Co., Ld.	9,000	$100	$70	..	.. ...	......	First	year	...	......	$45.00	32.85
S'hai Feather Cleaning Co., Ld.	300	₮500	₮500	.....	.....	......	None	... ..	...	.. ...	......	400.00
Tugs and Cargo Boats.												
Shanghai Tug Boat Co., Ld.	1,000	₮100	₮100	₮75,000	₮780.00	31-12-97	‡₮5	21- 6-98	₮20	10.00	......	200.00
Taku Tug and Lighter Co., Ld.	8,600	T.₮50	T.₮50	T.₮84,000.00 c 25,235.77	₮5,357.28	31-12-97	‡4%	— 8-98	₮5.83	7.77	T.₮75.00	......
Shanghai Cargo Boat Co. Ld....	2,000	₮100	₮100	₮125,425.39	₮4,059.45	31-12-97	‡6%	5- 8-98	₮14.67	9.17	......	160.00
Co-operative Cargo Boat Co., Ld.	1,000	₮100	₮100	₮57,152.84	₮2,048.66	31-12-97	‡5%	5- 8-98	₮13.00	8.95	......	145.00
Miscellaneous.												
Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ld.	7,200	£20	£20	₮30,000.00	₮8,706.64	31-12-97	‡₮5.81	26- 7-98	₮14.26	4.85	......	294.00
Tientsin Waterworks Co., Ld..	575	₮100	₮100	......	§T₮5,587.62	30- 4-98	...	......	...	.....	T₮100.00	......
Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco Co.	13,000	$20	$20	₮42,000.00	₮535.06	31-12-97	‡₮1.47	16- 9-98	₮5.71	8.27	......	69.00
Shanghai-Langkat Tob. Co., Ld.	3,980	₮100	₮100	......	§₮209,051.77	31-12-97	None.	......	...	......	...... (j)	130.00
Do. New issue	3,980	₮100	₮50	......	......	......	None.	......	...	.. ...	......	nom.
Shanghai Horse Bazaar Co., Ld.	1,800	₮50	₮50	......	₮4,040.09	31-12-97	†10%	23- 4-98	₮4.33	6.37	......	68.00
J. Llewellyn & Co., Ld.........	1,200	$100	$100	... ..	$1,166.77	31-12-97	†$4	1- 6-98	$1.33	2.18	$61.00	44.53
Hall & Holtz, Ld	6,250	$20	$20	$145,000.00	$6,031.59	28- 2-98	‖$2	30- 4-98	$3.67	9.66	$38.00	27.74
A. S. Watson & Co., Ld.........	60,000	$10	$10	$125,000	$9,239.01	31-12-97	‖5%	30- 5-98	$1.00	8.70	$11.50	8.40
Bell's Asbestos Eastern Agency, Ld.	8,200	£1	£1	......	£135.13.10	31-12.96	None.	......	...	......	......	nom.
Hongkong Electric Co., Ld. ...	30,000	$10	$10	none	$5,762.15	30- 4-98	†5%	9- 7-98	$0.50	5.88	$8.50	6.20
Central Stores, Ld.	6,000	$20	$20	......	§$19,088.54	28- 2-98	None	... ..	...	......	$10.25	7.48

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* For half year. † For year. ‡ Interim drividend. ‖ Final dividend for business year. § A deficit. (a) Exclusive of accrued interest. (c) Insurance Fund. (d) Depreciation Fund. (e) Reserve against Exchange and Investment Fluctuations. (j) Bonus. (g) Assuming that they run for the full term. (h) On the 31st December last, there were only £1.10.0 per share paid up, this, with the further calls of £1.10.0 per share since paid, cover the deficit. (i) Cum the right to the new issue at par. (k) The Accounts are not published. (l) Interest paid to this date. For all Dollar shares the exchange is fixed at 73.

J. P. BISSET & Co.